Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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BALLET PACKED UP AND READY TO ROLL FOR CINDERELLA STINT

Emily Smith poses in front of part of Cinderella's giant clock

TEN articulated lorries packed with scenery flats, props, lighting rigs, rails of costumes, flight cases of wigs are set to roll out of Birmingham, as Birmingham Royal Ballet begins its UK tour of Cinderella.

The three-act ballet closely follows the traditional Cinderella story of the wicked stepmother, ugly sisters, the Fairy Godmother and of course, the slipper.

In a break from the character portrayal in Cinderella that has dominated in recent years, David Bintley returned to the original idea of having ballerinas as the two sisters who are 'ugly on the inside', rather than being played by two men.

Broadcast by the BBC as the 2010 Christmas Ballet, the company's version of Cinderella won the Best Classical Choreography at the prestigious 2011 Critic's Circle National Dance Awards for the choreographic work. John Macfarlane's designs, originated in close collaboration with Mr Bintley includes a a giant ticking clock and a beautiful carriage.

Birmingham Royal Ballet spokesman David Harmon said: "With beautiful choreography and clear narrative the ballet offers ample opportunities for acting and comedy, particularly for the two sisters, Skinny and Dumpy. It also has great family appeal."

The production will be staged in Southampton from January 25 before heading for Salford, Plymouth and Sunderland in addition to a two-week run at Birmingham Hippodrome, the home venue of the company.

At each venue the production must adapt its sets to work perfectly on different sized stages and dancers must perform in up to a third less space than when at home, taxing the ingenuity and skill of over 50 backstage staff and nearly 40 dancers nightly.

Each venue requires between two and three days for each build and following the final night of the production the technical crew work straight on through the night to break down and load up.

The contents of the 10 articulated lorry trailers include 31 rails of costumes, eight baskets of shoes, 78 wigs, 250 hair rollers, 1,000 hair pins, 44 tutus and two washing machines and dryers.

Jobs to go as childcare association loses out on £300k

PLAY CENTRES FUNDING AXED

CHILDREN'S play centres and after-school clubs are to close across Sandwell, resulting in the loss of 26 jobs.

Sandwell Adventure Play Association (SAPA) has been forced to axe 14 services after the borough council pulled the plug on its £300,000-a-year funding. The move will leave parents facing significant disruption in their day-to-day lives.

As well as play centres, SAPA also provides childcare services, with staff picking up children from school and looking after them at the centres until the parents finish work. It also runs two pre-school playgroups.

Council bosses said SAPA had not been successful in applying for funding but insisted the cash would still be available for other providers.

The voluntary service operates from centres across the borough, including at Riddins Mound Children's Centre in Cradley Heath, Wesley Centre in Wednesbury, Kenrick Park Community Centre in West Bromwich, Wiltshire Way Play Centre in Hateley Heath, Wallace Close and Lion Farm Play Centres in Oldbury and the Windmill Centre in Smethwick.

By Richard Guttridge

Alternative

After-school clubs open for three and a half hours from Monday to Friday and also between 8am and 6pm during the school holidays to support parents who are unable to get time off work.

SAPA has been based in Sandwell for almost 50 years but funding from the council will cease at the end of March. Bosses said efforts to source alternative funding had been unsuccessful. A total of 26 staff have been told they will lose their jobs.

Devastated field officer Chris Harwood said: "Obviously we are very disappointed and upset. We are stunned, the realisation that we will have to close has hit us. There will be upheaval (for parents) but we have been assured by the local authority alternative places will be offered but we have no idea where at the moment. The play centres are based in areas with deprivation or with little or no provision for children to play. The idea was they wouldn't be tempted into crime and anti-social behaviour and would be encouraged to be grown-up citizens."

Councillor Simon Hackett, head of children's services at Sandwell Council, said: "It is important to confirm that the grant for these services has not been cut and that the council has not withdrawn any finance from this area.

"The truth is that SAPA was unsuccessful in bidding for grants to support the services they run because their bid was not of a high enough standard to win further funding on this occasion.

"In order to ensure the provision of services meet local need, the council periodically has to review them to see how it can offer a greater flexibility of services to an increasing number of children and families. These services will continue to be run by voluntary organisations to meet the needs of children and families within the borough."

Pair make B-line for Tom's team

Ebony Wilson, from Smethwick, right, with Zoe Hedge

A SECOND Black Country singer has made it through to the next round of hit TV talent show The Voice. Ebony Wilson, aged 20, from Smethwick, is one half of Capital B which made it through the first round of the competition on Saturday night.

Ebony and her Capital B partner Zoe Hedge, 21, from Bishop's Castle in Shropshire, have chosen iconic Welsh singer Sir Tom Jones as their mentor in the competition as they look to progress through the later rounds. The competition could see the pair come up against Brownhills's Jason Jones who chose to be on team will.i.am after wowing the judges last week.

Performing Lauryn Hill and Tanya Blount's version of Gospel hymn 'His Eye Is on the Sparrow' at the blind auditions, Capital B impressed both Sir Tom and Gavin Rossdale who turned their chairs for the duo. But after much deliberation the pair chose Sir Tom.

They will now work with the 76-year-old singer to prepare for the battle rounds.

Ebony, who used to be part of the Birmingham-based World Music Youth Choirs and the Handsworth female a capella group Black Voices, said: "We are so excited to be part of The Voice UK this year."

The Smethwick singer also used to be a backing vocalist for a Tom Jones tribute act, adding: "It was written in the stars for us to be team Tom!"

Ebony and Zoe met at Birmingham City University where they are both studying applied performance at the Birmingham School of Acting.

HEALTH

Seven in 10 adults have excess weight

MORE than 70 per cent of adults in Sandwell are either overweight or obese, health experts have revealed. A Public Health England Active People Survey, which collects self-reported height and weight from adults aged 16 and over, found out of 3,855, seven in 10 adults in Sandwell carried excess weight.

The split saw 41 per cent being overweight and 29 per cent obese. As part of National Obesity Awareness Week, Sandwell public health officers are urging people to make changes to their diets.

Public health chief, Councillor Preet Gill, said: "Obesity is becoming more and more of an issue." Call Healthy Sandwell, on 0800 0114656 or email ls@nhs.net

INQUESTS

Tunisia massacre probes under way

THE families of 30 Britons massacred on a Tunisian beach are hoping to finally get some answers about what happened and whether the atrocity could have been avoided.

The inquests started this week with the startling discovery that the attack mastermind is known and is on the run.

The families of the deceased, including Suzy Richards from Wednesbury who lost one of her sons, her brother and father in Tunisia, will be among those expecting to find out exactly what happened on that ill-fated day on June 26, 2015.

PLANNING

Welcome for 14 new flats scheme

HOMES will be built on the site of a run-down former doctors' surgery.

Plans to transform part of Lower High Street, Wednesbury, have been approved.

Some buildings will be knocked down to make way for 14 flats. However, the historic frontage looking out onto Lower High Street will remain and be incorporated into the new development. The buildings have been empty for years and part of the site has become unsafe.

Regeneration chief Councillor Paul Moore, said: "I'm delighted that a derelict building is being brought back into use. There is always a need for new housing."

INSIDE

GOOD LUCK TO CARING JENNY

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Record numbers seek help over debts

More cash being borrowed

A RECORD number of people are seeking help for financial problems – with average debts of £13,565 in the Sandwell area. In the Birmingham postcode area – which includes most of Sandwell – 2,919 people contacted a charity in just six months about debts totalling £39.6 million – an average of £13,565 for each person.

Nearly 1,800 people across Dudley, Wolverhampton and Walsall contacted the StepChange charity during the first half of 2016 – seeking help with liabilities totalling nearly £25 million.

A total of 1,778 people in the DY, WV and WS postcode areas contacted StepChange, equivalent to 10 calls every day. The charity provided help to a total of 614 people in the area, up from 590 during the same period the previous year, and the total level of debt rose from £9.4 million to £9.8 million. A total of 645 people from the WV postcode area contacted the charity during the first six months of last year, with an average debt of £12,415.

Total debt in the area that the charity helped with was just over £8 million, up from £7.3 million compared to the previous year.

The Dudley postal area, which includes Tipton, Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley, accounted for 519 of the charity's calls, and the average amount owed was £13,459. These figures were a marked improvement compared to the previous year, with total debt falling from nearly £9.2 million to just under £7 million.

Low interest rates are encouraging more people to take out loans or buy on credit. But there are fears people are borrowing beyond their means and a rate rise could see a rush of repossessions.

£6.6m schools funding approved by councillors

A £6.6 MILLION investment in Sandwell schools to create hundreds of primary spaces and help build a new school has been approved.

A total of 700 spaces will be created through extensions of existing schools and the development of a new primary in Smethwick.

Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling said: "There has been an unprecedented growth in the birth rate over recent years but this has started to ease, however, we still have a high demand for school places. We are meeting that demand with this investment."

The council money from its capital funding programme will be released over the next two years and the extensions work is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

Smethwick is the borough with the highest demand. The new free school called Shireland High Tech Primary will create 420 places.

Supporting

The council is supporting the Government's Education Funding Agency to build Shireland High Tech Primary School while the agency identifies an exact site for the school.

Proposals have been made to build a new eight-classroom teaching block for St Matthew's CE Primary School in Smethwick. The site would be situated on Windmill Lane.

Meanwhile Crocketts Community and St Gregory's Catholic primary schools in the town, alongside Lyng Primary School in West Bromwich, would also see classroom extensions.

Projects to refurbish Reddal Hill Primary School, in Cradley Heath, and Summerhill Primary School in Tipton, would also be completed under the new plans.

A report before cabinet said it was also currently projected that an additional 3,845 places will be needed in secondary schools in Sandwell by September 2025.

The Q3 Academy Langley, off Moat Road in Oldbury, was the first new secondary school to built in a decade. School bosses said it will have more than 1,500 pupils by 2023.

Pet ban for neglected dog's owner

Rottweiler Tyson, after he was found in a garden shed, where he had been kept for three months

THE owner of a dog who was neglected for three months in a garden shed has been disqualified from keeping animals for 10 years.

Nine-year-old rottweiler Tyson was in such a bad way when he was inspected by the RSPCA last year that they could not tell what breed he was. As well as being emaciated, he had a severe skin condition from head to tail and open sores on his legs and eyes.

He was immediately taken to a vet, where he was put to sleep on humane grounds as he was so poorly.

His owner, Sandra Sangha, aged 42, of David Peacock Close, in Tipton, appeared at Birmingham Magistrates' Court on January 6, where she pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to Tyson.

As well as the 10-year disqualification order, Sangha was given a 15-week prison sentence suspended for two years, and was ordered to pay costs of £300 and a £115 victim surcharge,

RSPCA inspector Dawn Burrell, who investigated the case, said: "When I looked in the shed, Tyson was collapsed in the corner by a hole, where he was exposed to wind and rain. He was in a terrible way and there was no food or water for him. Sadly he had been in this way for at least three months.

"Tyson's skin was so crusty and sore from his skin condition that I couldn't tell what breed he was. He was very clearly neglected and was so weak that I had to carry him from the shed to my van to get him to the vets.

"There is no doubt about it – he suffered terribly. I still haven't forgotten the sight of him curled up in the corner of that shed."

Residents urged not to miss out on scheme

SANDWELL residents who have made a New Year resolution to review their finances are urged not to miss out on a cash-saving energy scheme which could save them money on their fuel bills.

The council has teamed up with energy auction specialist iChoosr to help people get a better deal from gas and electricity suppliers. The latest round of the Energy Switch scheme – which works by getting consumers together and using their combined buying power – is now open.

Residents have until Monday 13 February to sign up for the latest auction, energy suppliers then compete for their custom by offering the best possible energy prices. Councillor Paul Moore, Sandwell's cabinet member for regeneration and investment, said: "Thousands of residents have already taken advantage of the scheme with the average savings being around £300 a year."

And it's not just people in Sandwell who can benefit from better deals. Anyone can use the council's website to sign up to the scheme.

To find out if they can save money, residents need to complete a simple online form by February 13.

After the registration period closes, they will receive details of their new deal after February 27.

They then have until March 28 to decide whether to accept the new offer. Residents can sign up at www.sandwell.gov.uk/energyswitch and will need a copy of their latest gas and electricity bills to hand.

Careers choice call for teens

TEENAGERS aged between 14 and 19 are invited to a careers event in West Bromwich.

The Connexions New Year, New Start event is at Sandwell College's Central Sixth campus in New Street between 10am and 2pm on Saturday.

It's a chance for young people to discuss what they want to do after school or college. Around 45 colleges, universities, apprenticeship and training providers, employers and professions including law and accountancy will be there.

Sandwell Connexions careers advisers will also be on hand to give impartial careers information, advice and guidance so young people can discuss their options in detail.

For more information, call Sandwell Connexions on 0121 569 2955.

Jah Wobble set to appear in Brum

FORMER bass player for John Lydon's Public Image Ltd, Jah Wobble, is to play in Birmingham in the summer. He is bringing his group Invaders of the Heart to the Hare and Hounds, in Kings Heath, on June 2. Advance tickets are on sale now at £15.

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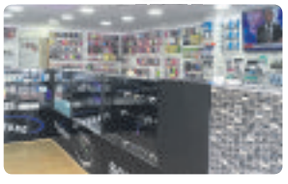

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Region set to get £7.5m for potholes on roadways

THE West Midlands and Staffordshire is to be given more than £7.5 million to tackle potholes.

The Government has revealed the amount of money each region across the country will be receiving in the next financial year to fill in potholes as well as stop them forming.

The West Midlands will receive £7.67m overall, including £1.22m for the West Midlands Combined Authority and £1.58m for Staffordshire. The Government says the funding for the West Midlands, which also includes areas such as Hereford, Shropshire and Stoke, will lead to around 144,000 potholes being fixed in 2017/18.

In announcing the funding, transport minister Andrew Jones said: "Roads play a significant part in everyday life linking people with jobs and businesses with customers, which is why this government is investing record amounts improving and maintaining highways across the country to help motorists."

The new funds have been backed by South Staffordshire MP and the Conservative chief whip Gavin Williamson. He said: "The state of our roads is consistently raised with me by local residents and remains a great source of frustration for drivers.

"This funding is welcome news for families and businesses in Staffordshire who rely on our roads to get around. It builds on the £1,069,000 we got last year and is the latest step in our plan to build a country that works for everyone.

"The announcement shows that we are delivering on our commitment to invest in infrastructure to attract businesses and secure a better future for local businesses."

The funding allocated specifically for potholes is part of more than £115m the West Midlands is receiving to improve roads, cut congestion and improve journey times."

Co-op in pledge to remove treats

THE Co-op Group is to remove sweets with marketing and packaging aimed at children from its store checkouts and provide a range of healthier snacks.

The assurance has been given to the West Midlands representative on the Co-op Members' Council, David Hallam, a former director of the international diabetes federation and member of the European Parliament.

Mr Hallam said: "This is good news for parents who dread having their children pining for unhealthy sweets at checkouts. I just hope every other convenience chain follows suit."

The Co-op Group told Mr Hallam: "We will continue to develop the range of products on offer and will be guided by our customers on this issue." Mr Hallam said he would continue to monitor the situation carefully and would be interested to hear whether parents thought the ban was helpful.

Blakemore sales hit £1.31 billion

Chairman of the firm, Peter Blakemore

FAMILY owned food retail, wholesale and distribution group A F Blakemore & Son saw an 0.2 per cent increase in profits and a 2.4 per cent increase in sales from its latest annual accounts.

The Willenhall-based business, which celebrates its centenary in 2017, recorded annual sales of £1.31 billion with pre-tax profits up from £7.59 million to £7.60m for the 2015-2016 financial year. Net assets have also grown by 7.6 per cent to £80.8m.

A F Blakemore chairman, Peter Blakemore, described the figures as a pleasing steady result, thanking all members of staff for their efforts He said: "It has been achieved against a background of difficult trading conditions in the food retail and wholesale markets together with significant levels of price deflation."

Cost control was cited as a consideration during the year and Mr Blakemore pointed to the fact that the business has continued to retain and re-invest all of its post-tax profits into improving the group operations and those of its independent retail customers.

Mr Blakemore also looked ahead to the future and the company's 2020 vision, focused upon generating sustainable growth and long-term prosperity.

He said: "A F Blakemore has set out a vision to solidify its position as a multi-market national food operator with a fantastic reputation for service among trade partners and consumers.

"Collaboration is now required across the A F Blakemore Group for the business to achieve its goals. More than ever we need to use the expertise from across our divisions to benefit the whole company."

Statue of Billy Wright smashed at Molineux

THE iconic Billy Wright statue outside Molineux has been badly damaged after a car crashed into it.

The plinth on which the statue of the Wolves and England legend stands was ripped apart in the early hours drama.

A 30-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of drink driving and dangerous driving following the crash in the early hours of Sunday. He was bailed by police until next month pending further inquiries and the statue was cordoned off following the crash.

The statue

Three slate slabs have torn off the structure, including the panel that carries the hero's name, which was smashed in two.

Vicky Wright, the daughter of the late player, said she was 'so sad' to hear about the statue.

She tweeted to say: "Man arrested after the statue was left badly damaged. This has made me so sad."

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "Officers have arrested a man following a collision with a statue outside Molineux on Waterloo Road, in the early hours of Sunday morning. A 30-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of drink driving and dangerous driving."

A Wolves spokesman said: "The club has been in contact with West Midlands Police over the damage done to the base of the statue following a traffic incident in the early hours of Sunday morning.

"The club's staff will be assessing the damage done to the statue with a view to carrying out restoration work as soon as possible."

The 9ft bronze statue was unveiled in 1996 by Billy's widow Joy, who called it 'a wonderful work of art.' It is considered one of the finest football statues in the country.

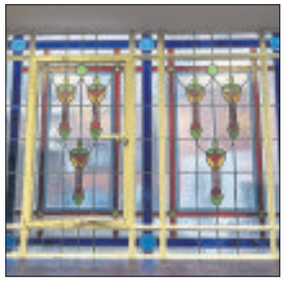
The sculpture depicts the former Wolves and England captain – who earned 105 caps for his country – leading out his team. He died in 1994, aged 70.

The campaign to raise a permanent memorial to the player was headed by Wolverhampton councillor Fred Ledsam.

The £50,000 funding for the statue was raised by public subscription.

Final peak at blinding jailhouse

A police officer stands guard on the first floor of the Victorian-style jail


A stained glass window at the station

The building's exterior

THESE pictures give the last glimpses of a famous Victorian 'Peaky Blinders' police station and jailhouse before it is closed forever. The Steelhouse Lane Police Station, situated opposite the Children's Hospital in Birmingham, was opened as a custody suite 125 years ago.

It was known as the 'Lock Up' and was a place where renowned criminals, such as serial killer Fred West and the original 'Peaky Blinders', spent their first nights behind bars. The 'Lock Up' has since become a Grade II listed building.

A neo-Georgian building was added to it 41 years later in 1933 to serve as a central police station.

However, it has now been given an honourable discharge after being found 'unsuitable' for modern policing. The building features a tunnel – through which thousands of criminals made the walk to court – heavy steel cell doors, art deco door handles, old fashioned interview rooms equipped with cassette players and even stained glass windows.

Head of Birmingham West neighbourhood policing unit, Chief Superintendent Chris Johnson, said: "We are moving to a fantastic new base, which has been specifically designed to cater for 21st century policing. As much as we all love the site on Steelhouse Lane, it's almost 100 years old and struggling to cope with the demands of modern policing.

"While we are all quite sentimental about the place, as a building it doesn't provide value for money or the facilities modern police teams need."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Councillor follows his grandfather

A BLACK Country councillor will be following in the footsteps of his grandfather when he takes over the mayorship of a council later this year.

Councillor Marco Longhi, a Conservative councillor in Walsall, will become mayor of the town at the start of the 2017/18 financial year.

Councillor Longhi

Being a mayor is widely regarded as the top honour in local politics but Councillor Longhi's stint will take on extra significance as he follows in his grandfather's footsteps.

Wilfred Clarke was mayor of Walsall between 1978-79, with his picture up on the wall in the council house alongside other Walsall mayors of past generations.

Councillor Longhi said: "I am really delighted to have been voted mayor and look forward to a great year being ambassador for the town."

Experts to make railways safer

THE University of Birmingham has signed an agreement with Beijing Jiaotong University (BJTU) for research experts to work together on developing technology to help make railways safer and more efficient.

Both universities will continue their partnership and strengthen education links and allow Chinese rail engineering students to study at Birmingham, benefitting from the University's expertise – particularly in railway control and safety.

University of Birmingham Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir David Eastwood joined Professor Bin Ning, President of BJTU, to sign the agreement at a special ceremony in Beijing.

Institute's green fingered visitor

YOUNG Black Country gardener, Adam Greathead, will be offering his expertise in his talk at the West Bromwich Institute next Tuesday.

There will be plenty of colourful plants and flowers on show too, plus hilarious tales of some of the great eccentrics he has dug up in the course of his glittering career. The talk starts at 7.30 in the Central Library, West Bromwich High Street, access via the rear entrance, admission £3.

Teen careers invite

TEENAGERS have been invited to a careers event which is taking place in West Bromwich.

The Connexions New Year, New Start event is at Sandwell College's Central Sixth campus in New Street.

The event, which runs from 10am and 2pm, on January 21, is open to all young people aged 14 to 19.

For further information visit www.connexionssandwell.co.uk

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A READER tells me he saw his doctor last week. This week he received an email from a funeral-insurance company. Just keep telling yourself it's pure coincidence.

AFTER my recent piece on police being unwilling to carry guns, a retired cop recalls that, although he never wanted a pistol, he found himself with one during a raid. It had fallen out of another officer's holster.

ANOTHER ex-cop tells me the prospect of arming some bobbies chills his blood. He says: "Some of the younger bobbies on my old shift were so gung-ho they would have shot each other before they had got out of the parade-room door. Interestingly, the officers really opposed to being armed were ex soldiers."

A TEAM of blacked-up Morris dancers started their show in Birmingham and were heckled and abused and forced to clear off. Well, what did they expect? The Alvechurch Morris men claim to be following an old tradition of dancers blackening their faces so as not to be recognised by their employers. Bunkum. This practice was confined to small parts of Wales, centuries ago. Why has it become so popular with Morris sides all over England, especially one like the Alvechurch team which was founded less than 30 years ago? Look at old photos of Morris sides and you'll find virtually all the faces are white. Blacking-up is not some revered old tradition but a modern choice, and in the middle of multicultural Brum a very silly choice.

OH, dear. It's been another terrible week for those people variously described as Bremainers or Remoaners. They deserve a new name, something to capture their growing acceptance of Brexit, coupled with undying dismay. I toyed with Les Miserables but that's far too European. So instead, let us call them the Glums. Having spent months warning darkly that new trade agreements could take a decade, the Glums watched in horror as Boris Johnson met the Trump team and sewed up some sort of understanding with the Yanks over coffee. Okay, it's not a proper trade agreement but as we are gradually discovering, you do not need a trade agreement in order to agree to trade.

FOR amateur weather forecasters, this is a significant time of year. According to the Diall of Daies published in 1590, each of the first 12 days of January predicts the weather for the year to come. The afternoon of January 8, for example, indicates the weather for June. And today's weather is a sort of summary for 2017's weather overall. Do not throw away ye olde seaweede.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Sandwell libraries among UK best

AN army of volunteers and a packed programme of activities have put Sandwell libraries among the best in the country according to recent figures.

The borough came third out of 36 metropolitan authorities for the number of books borrowed and with more than 1.7 million people through the doors, it had the fourth highest number of visits.

Figures for 2015-16 released by the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) also show Sandwell had the fifth highest use of computers and was the tenth highest for enquiries.

And it had the second highest number of volunteers after recording 16,820 volunteer hours during the year. Councillor Richard Marshall, cabinet member for leisure, said: "These are excellent results thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers, who despite facing a tough budget resulting from central government cuts, are providing an excellent service to our residents. Figures show that more than a million books were borrowed by Sandwell residents and visitors spent more than 216,000 hours on library computers.

"Our staff and volunteers work hard at providing a packed programme of activities at our libraries making them active community hubs and unlike other boroughs we aren't cutting opening hours or closing libraries."

If you want to know more about volunteering or joining a friends group, ask at your local library, or fill in the form on website www.sandwell.gov.uk/libraries

£7.5m to be spent on sorting out potholes

By Jack Averty

THE West Midlands and Staffordshire is to be given more than £7.5 million to tackle potholes.

The Government has revealed the amount of money each region across the country will be receiving in the next financial year to fill in potholes as well as stop them forming.

The West Midlands will receive £7.67 million overall, including £1.22m for the West Midlands Combined Authority and £1.58m for Staffordshire. The Government say the funding for the West Midlands, which includes areas such as Hereford, Shropshire and Stoke, will lead to around 144,000 potholes being fixed in 2017/18.

In announcing the funding, transport minister Andrew Jones said: "Roads play a significant part in everyday life linking people with jobs and businesses with customers, which is why this government is investing record amounts improving and maintaining highways across the country to help motorists."

Frustration

The new funds have been backed by South Staffordshire MP and the Conservative chief whip Gavin Williamson. He said: "The state of our roads is consistently raised with me by residents and remains a great source of frustration for drivers.

"The announcement shows that we are delivering on our commitment to invest in infrastructure to attract businesses."

The funding allocated specifically for potholes is part of more than £115m the West Midlands is receiving to improve roads, cut congestion and improve journey times.

Including its £1.22m pothole fund, the West Midlands Combined Authority is set to receive £21.5m.

This is broken down to £14.45m from the highways maintenance block needs formula and £5.79m from the national productivity investment fund. The authority covers Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Mystery over fire as restaurant gutted

The rear of the Royale Garden Caribbean restaurant in High Street, West Bromwich, which was destroyed by fire

A WEEK on since a huge blaze gutted a restaurant, fire chiefs are yet to determine the cause. More than 50 firefighters battled to save the first and second floors of the Royale Garden Caribbean restaurant. The blaze at the restaurant on High Street, in West Bromwich, was just after 10.30am on January 4.

It came just hours after an arson attack at a nearby pizza shop. High Street was closed throughout the day, but police are not linking both the fires.

The back of the restaurant was most severely hit but luckily no-one was hurt in the blaze. Staff at nearby businesses have explained how the owners had returned to the restaurant earlier this week and removed any belongings. Shutters remained up at the front as charred remains were still on the the pavement. The upstairs windows remained open with smoke damaged curtains hanging out. Ann Yates, who has worked at Attewell Opticians directly opposite the restaurant for 36 years, recalled how the fire started.

She said: "It was just billowing out dark smoke and you could see the flames roaring in the sky. We were in the front of the shop at the time and it was a quiet day for us. There was just lots of smoke coming from the back of the building and dozens of fire fighters arrived.

"It took the roof off around the back and one of the floors. It just got thicker and thicker after it started at 10.30am. Then we were told to leave just after midday as they closed off the road so we had to shut up."

Aftab Ahmed, from Aafee Barbers, two doors down from the restaurant, said: "The fire service have done really well to keep it under control because there are a lot of shops here if it spread."

Crews from West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Smethwick, Tipton and Aston attended the incident.

Call to find peak fitness with effort for charity

MENINGITIS Now, the country's biggest meningitis charity, is looking for outdoor enthusiasts to join it for its Three Peaks Challenge in June, raising funds to fight back against the disease.

The challenge, designed to push walkers to their limits and give them a real sense of achievement, takes place between June 9 and 11, climbing Snowdon, Scafell Pike and finally Ben Nevis.

Until the end of January, Meningitis Now has guaranteed places for just £49 plus a commitment to raise a minimum of £500 in sponsorship towards its lifesaving and life-changing work.

In return trekkers get transport, accommodation, food and the support of a qualified safety team to take them on the memorable challenge.

There's also an opportunity to attend a training day in the Brecon Beacons on April 30 to test fitness levels and equipment, advice and support from the charity's professional and friendly events team and 15 per cent discount at Cotswold Outdoors.

Rachel Oakley, event officer at Meningitis Now, said: "This demanding but breath-taking adventure will provide picture-perfect moments and memories to last a lifetime."

Meningitis Now is committed to saving lives and rebuilding futures torn apart by meningitis, through research, awareness and support.

For more information on the initiative or to sign up visit www.meningitisnow.org, or call the Events team on 0345 120 4530.

Celtic folk stars back at city hall

TRANSATLANTIC Sessions will return to Birmingham's Symphony Hall next month. Sessions feature leading celtic folk and Americana musicians on February 9. Among those performing, at 7.30pm, will be Scottish singer Eddi Reader, once of Fairground Attraction.

Shetland fiddle legend Aly Bain, American singer John Paul White and Texan-born Tift Merrit will also perform during the evening.

The band also features John Doyle, Danny Thompson, Michael McGoldrick, Russ Barenberg, John McCusker, Donald Shaw and James Mackintosh.

Tickets costing £30.50 are available from the box office on 0121 780 3333 or online at by visiting www.thsh.co.uk

Maverick Cope will play Brum

MAVERICK rock star Julian Cope is performing in Birmingham next month.

The 59-year-old ex-Teardrop Explodes singer from Tamworth will be at the Glee Club in The Arcadian Centre on February 12.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
CREMATIONS IN SANDWELL
YOU MAY BE AWARE THAT SANDWELL COUNCIL ARE OFFERING FAMILIES A VERY BASIC FUNERAL SERVICE AT A COST OF £1595. WHEN WE AT HENLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS WHO ARE THE ONLY FAMILY OWNED & RUN FUNERAL DIRECTORS IN THE SMETHWICK AND OLDBURY AREA WHO OFFER A MUCH SUPERIOR AND PERSONAL SERVICE FOR £1395
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24 HOUR SERVICE

Relocation of market to Netto site welcomed

WOLVERHAMPTON market will be moved to a new city centre site under latest plans. Traders will relocate from Market Square to a new home in Cleveland Street.

The site was formerly used by Netto and a furniture store. It will pave the way for a £55 million regeneration scheme to dramatically transform the western part of the city.

The Westside scheme includes a multi-screen cinema, restaurants, bars, hotel, multi-storey car park, apartments and public open space.

Wolverhampton Council's cabinet was set to approve the market relocation this week. It will move to a site currently used for parking.

Councillor Steve Evans, Cabinet Member for City Environment, said: "The council is proud to have a legally-binding Royal Charter, which commits us to holding a weekly market in the city centre. Relocating the market to Southside will not only pave the way for a first-class leisure development on Westside, will also allow the market to thrive in a new, prominent location. The feedback we have had from initial discussions with the market traders has been positive."

The new market on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday will front onto Cleveland Street, opposite the Wulfrun Shopping Centre, which it is hoped will boost the numbers of shoppers. The old Netto store and adjoining buildings were demolished last year. The move will see 48 tented stalls and 16 purpose-built cabins transfer from Market Square.

Get interactive on the streets

BEAT the Street – the popular physical activity initiative that had more than 300,000 walking and cycling in 2016 – is set to return to Sandwell.

The scheme will transform Rowley, Oldbury, Smethwick, West Bromwich, Tipton and Wednesbury into an interactive game with local people rewarded with points and prizes.

More than 200 beeping and flashing sensors called Beat Boxes will be dotted across the area which people can tap with cards and key fobs to track their journey. In doing so, they will receive points and win prizes either for their chosen school, community group or as individuals.

The scheme kicks off on Wednesday February 8. To find out more visit www.lets-dothis.org.uk.

Tumble dryer causes shed fire

FIRE crews were called to a shed fire in Oldbury caused by a tumble dryer. Eight firefighters tackled the fire which left the shed completely destroyed last Tuesday afternoon. Paramedics checked a female occupier over but she did not need treatment.

Jail for upmarket clothes shoplift couple

Clothes – Mirela Vasile

A COUPLE from Bearwood who stole clothes worth more than £100,000 on a shoplifting spree at designer shops including at the Bullring are now behind bars.

Smartly dressed husband and wife Ionut and Mirela Vasile struck at luxury outlets Louis Vuitton, Harvey Nichols and Burberry the length and breadth of the country – from Scotland to London.

They perfected a tactic of distracting fitting room staff and hiding clothes in changing booths for accomplices to scoop up and smuggle through security detectors in foil-lined bags. They first struck at the Michael Kors store in the Bullring in January 2015. Birmingham city centre police then picked up the investigation following two high-end heists at Harvey Nichols in the space of a few weeks.

Security staff detained 35-year-old Ionut Vasile and a suspected getaway driver as they fled The Mailbox on December 11 2015.

Enquiries at stores across the UK uncovered CCTV footage showing the group pulling off the shoplift scam in Manchester, Edinburgh, London, Nottingham and Milton Keynes.

It led to 34-year-old Mirela Vasile and a female accomplice being arrested on April 27 last year. They were arrested at Ionut and Mirela's home in Richmond Road.

Several thousand pounds worth of clothing was found at the address.

The Vasiles admitted conspiracy to steal and at Birmingham Crown Court last Tuesday and were both jailed for three years.

Jailed – Iounut Vasile

Council tax set to go up as chiefs seek extra £11

COUNCIL tax looks set to surge in Sandwell, with the borough council expected to take an extra £11 million from households over the next three years.

The cash-strapped authority is planning to place part of the burden for funding future and existing services on taxpayers as bosses insist council tax must rise if it is to avoid losing millions of pounds from its budget.

The Government has announced plans to relax limits on council tax increases to help fund social care, meaning bills could rise by as much as six per cent.

Sandwell Council has revealed its planned spending power up to 2020, on the basis that council tax will rise by the maximum amount.

Finance chiefs have budgeted for taking more than £3.5m extra from council tax over each of the next three financial years.

It comes on top of the maximum four per cent increase which was imposed last March, though that was the first rise for six years.

Average

The average Sandwell household currently pays £1,390 a year in council tax, with £1,200 going to the council.

A six per cent rise would see families paying an extra £72 on average.

Bosses say they have been left with little option but to look at increasing council tax due to massive budget cuts from the Government.

Funding from Whitehall has fallen by more than £150m since 2010.

Even with the proposed council tax rise, the council is still on course for a £19m funding shortfall by 2020 which will need to be addressed.

A budget report due to go to the council later this month said: "Sandwell's total funding across the spending review period from 2015/16 will reduce by 1.2 per cent, assuming the council agrees to implement the full council tax increase to fund cost pressures in adult social care."

Last month, the Labour leader of Sandwell Council, Steve Eling, admitted a council tax rise would have to be considered in order to fund social care.

He claimed the Government was 'washing its hands' of social care by making local authorities pay for it.

We're missing retiring Jenny already

Jenny Weston, centre, with staff members Vannessa Ilsley, June Mapley, Michelle Gregory and Kylie Turay

THE longest serving manager of a nursing home in Sandwell has retired after 22 years.

For decades Jenny Weston has run Woodgreen Nursing Home in Wednesbury and the 74-year-old has decided to call time on her award-winning career.

Known for her dry humour and approachable demeanour, Ms Weston would hold weekly sherry and sing-along evenings in the nursing home.

June Mapley, deputy manager at Woodgreen Nursing Home, has known Ms Weston since she joined the company in 1992.

She said: "She really helped transform the place. It was a residential home before she started and she was hired to turn it into a nursing home.

"She was an assessor and verifier – none of the staff had NVQ qualifications before she started and within a matter of months everyone did. That was down to her." From Brownhills, Ms Weston received the nation's top training accolade in 2002 – the Investors in People status when an assessor visited and gave her the award on the spot.

It was her dry sense of humour and sense of fun which she will be best remembered for by staff and residents however. "She will be really missed as a manager, but even more so as a friend."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospital x-ray scanner arrives

A SUPER-FAST x-ray scanner has arrived at a Black Country hospital.

The scanner at Sandwell Hospital will deliver high-quality images in a fraction of the time usually taken, and generate a much lower dose of radiation.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust has become one of the first trusts in the country to install this scanning equipment, which promises to cut waiting times while improving patient safety.

Louise Harrison, from SWBH, said: "This machine is a game changer. It enables us to reduce the time needed for each scan by half. We no longer need to move the scanning equipment to examine patients since the new machine can automatically move around to do the job."

Concert night is just world-class

MUSIC lovers have the chance to attend a celebration concert at the University of Birmingham marking the Chinese New Year. Three world-class musicians are helping the university celebrate the arrival of the Year of the Rooster with a mix of traditional Chinese and Western pieces.

A limited number of tickets are still available to see pianist Di Xiao, cellist Jiaxin Lloyd Webber and harpist Eleanor Turner at the Elgar Concert Hall, tomorrow. For details, log onto https://thebramall.co.uk/events/chinese-new-year-concert/

Bright ideas for teenage careers

TEENAGERS have been invited to a careers event in West Bromwich.

The Connexions New Year, New Start event is at Sandwell College's Central Sixth campus in New Street.

The event, which runs from 10am and 2pm, on January 21, is open to all young people aged 14 to 19.

For further information visit www.connexionssandwell.co.uk

Grotto's £4,000 for neo-natal charity

SHOPPERS helped to raise more than £4,000 for a dedicated neo-natal charity. The funds were raised as more than 1,000 children visited Santa's Grotto at Northfield Shopping Centre, in Birmingham.

People were able to show support for the Birmingham Women's NHS Foundation Trust's tiny babies big appeal funding the opening of the £7m neo-natal unit at the hospital.

Goon Show in Brum

A RECREATION of the classic 1950s radio comedy The Goon Show is coming to Birmingham. Two of Spike Milligan's scripts will be performed at the Midlands Arts Centre, in Cannon Hill Park, on February 11, at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets are £15 via 0121 446 3232.

Sandwell age UK
LOTTERY FUNDED
Free Activities January 2017
Creative Hub for Older People Calendar of Events
Every Thursday afternoon from 12th January 1pm-3.00pm
Vintage cafe
Digital drop-in
Information and advice from Age UK Advisor Gary Overton
Thursday 19th January 1pm-3.00pm
Information and advice on healthcare services in Sandwell with Healthwatch Sandwell
All activities and refreshments FREE!
Wesley Community Centre,
High Street, West Bromwich, B70 8ND (by Lloyds Bank)
Registered charity number 1080517
IDBBOS051 03/12

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

NHS: We need to be more realistic

SOME years ago a man came into our office with a complaint about the charity then known as Age Concern.

He was furious that somebody from the charity who was supposed to have planed his door had not shown up.

"Why do you always ask people for their age?" asked our receptionist when he had gone. I suggested that maybe a fit, healthy man in his mid-50s possibly could do his own DIY.

Which brings me to the "humanitarian crisis" which is supposed to be engulfing the NHS at the moment.

There are no easy answers. We have a growing and ageing population and more costly procedures and drugs than ever before, not helped by profiteering drug companies.

And while there are plenty of people who say it is all down to funding, these people tend to have a stock reply when asked how much extra tax they are prepared to pay.

Nothing. It should be somebody else who pays for it.

Then there are the vast swathes of the population who take the attitude that if a service is free to use, they might as well use it.

We've all met them. They take a fortnight off work every time they sneeze. They call their GP when they get indigestion. And rock up at A & E every time they get a headache. And shout a lot when they don't get immediate attention.

A bit like middle-aged men who think a charity for the elderly should do their home improvements.

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt has come in for a lot of stick for suggesting the four-hour waiting targets should only apply to people with urgent conditions, but I tend to think it is a fair point.

If people expect Bupa standards of healthcare, we are going to have to start paying Bupa prices. All of us. Otherwise, we are going to need a mature debate about what we can reasonably expect from the NHS.

And it might mean that while priority is given to those with genuine life-threatening conditions, those with conditions that can wait will have to do just that. Wait.

❒❒❒

A LOT has been made of the number of celebrity deaths over recent months, but none has made me sadder than that of former Villa, Wolves and England manager Graham Taylor.

Maybe it's because football is a bigger part of my life than film, television or music.

But maybe it is because the loss of the bright young manager who arrived at Villa Park in 1987 reminds us of our own mortality.

Either way, he will be greatly missed.

Bank clerk Tanya Nelson weighing out coins in 1983

Batches of coins being moved at the Royal Mint in 1983

Why pound in pocket is all about to change

Our new £1 won't just look very different, its value is nothing like it was years ago, as Mark Andrews reports

HAD a look at your change lately? Noticed how many shiny new £1 coins have been issued over the past few months?

Well don't get too attached to them. By October they will cease to be legal tender.

A new, 12-sided £1 coin – designed by Walsall teenager David Pearce – will enter circulation on March 28, and by October 15 the familiar round pound will be no more. Given that there are thought to be 1.5 billion of these coins in circulation, it is going to be a very big operation.

When the pound coin was introduced on April 21, 1983, the response was muted to say the least. Just 10 months earlier, the 20p piece had been introduced, with many consumers, particularly the older generation, complaining that it was too small – smaller than the 2p, 5p or 10p coins of the day, for example.

Inflation

So when the long established £1 note was replaced by a metal coin after more than a decade of heavy inflation, it was perhaps little surprise that consumers felt it reflected the decline in the pound's worth.

Back in 1967, when prime minister Harold Wilson famously assured us that the pound in our pockets had not been devalued, a £1 note would have bought a discounted winter coat in the sale at Shrewsbury's ABC Warehouse. Or failing that, it would be enough to pay for 10 loaves of bread, or six pints of beer in a pub.

But by the time the pound coin arrived in 1983, it did not go so far – enough to buy a single pint of Carling Black Label, or five pints of milk.

Today, it will typically buy two pints of milk, or a single loaf of bread. But forget a trip to your local – a typical pint is now nearer £4.

As far back as 1980, the Royal Mint observed it had 'become apparent that with the general decline in purchasing power, the £1 unit of currency was more appropriate to a coin than a banknote'.

Walsall youngster David Pearce whose design was chosen from 6,000 competition entries

Before the coin was introduced in mainland Britain, there had been a not-especially-successful trial in the Isle of Man. Many people refused to acknowledge the new coin, causing them to more or less disappear from circulation. The Manx Treasurer was left with little choice but to print a new batch of £1 notes.

The original £1 coin was designed by the Bank of England's chief engraver Eric Sewell, who was very proud of his new design. He said it was very distinctive and could easily be picked out from lesser coins in a purse or pocket of change. But on launch day it was reported that some critics said they would spend it like loose change because that was precisely what it was.

The reasons for switching from the note to the coin were logical enough.

In 1983, a paper £1 note had an average lifespan of just nine months, whereas it was estimated that the new coins would last at least 40 years. The number of early £1 coins still in circulation is testament to their durability.

Unsurprisingly, the vending trade was very supportive of the move, too, as it allowed machines to be adapted to accept larger amounts of money. The launch of the new coin also coincided with the growth of pay-and-display car parking machines.

Given the pound's origins, it is perhaps not surprising that some people felt the small coin had cheapened its value. The oldest currency in the world, the pound took its name from its weight in silver during Norman times – 240 old silver pennies weighed one pound. No wonder people thought they were being short-changed. The reverse designs of the £1 coin represented the UK and its four constituent parts – Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England and the first series of designs took floral emblems as its theme.

Resistance to the coins turned out to be comparatively shortlived, and the last pound notes were phased out in 1988. Besides, there was far more to complain about in 1990, with the introduction of the new smaller £5 notes and 5p coins. But while the pound coin has largely been accepted by the general public, it has given birth to another problem. Forgery.

From the start, the £1 coin has been forged on a prolific scale, Ironically, one of the reasons the coins proved so popular with forgers was the ease of disposing of them in vending machines.

Surveys by the Royal Mint have estimated that up to three in every 100 £1 coins are fakes, and this has been a major driver in the redesign. David Gauke, chief secretary to the Treasury, has pledged that the new £1 coin will be harder to forge than ever before.

Lighter

The new coin will be made from two metals, with a gold-coloured outer ring and a silver-coloured inner ring. It has an image that changes from a '£' symbol to the number '1' when the coin is seen from different angles. It also has very small lettering on both sides of the coin and milled edges. It is thinner and lighter than the round pound, but its diameter is slightly larger.

While the existing pound coin has changed little since 1983, people's spending habits have, with greater use of plastic and the internet.

According to figures from the Payments Council, cold hard cash accounted for 86 per cent of payments in the UK in the mid-1980s, but by 2011 this had dropped to 55 per cent. The decline in cash usage has coincided with the rise in automated payments such as direct debits and standing orders.

Debit cards made up almost one fifth of payments by 2011, but they made none when the £1 coin was first introduced because the debit card was not brought in until 1987.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Cranking up petrol prices at the pumps

EVERY time I go to the petrol station I can hear the pump prices being cranked up.

Okay I understand the sterling rate against the dollar, but I don't understand as oil prices per barrel have fallen a lot lower than the exchange rate differential.

Why pump prices have gone up substantially a lot more than the currency rate, and it's every week another 1 or 2p per litre, so what's going on? as this is knocking on to heating, transport, food production and manufacturing costs.

We are seeing the cost of living being hijacked by some very questionable business practices, and of course the easy target of 'Brexit' being used by our 'financial wizards'. It's time the Government got a grip on this 'Brexit carpet bagging" and stopped allowing these abuses. Our cash and our standard of living is being plundered by a bunch of opportunist conmen, using our democratic right to come out of a political and economic corrupt organisation, and use it as a economic stick to beat us with.

S T VAUGHAN
Yardley Wood

NHS gripes are in-tents

PEOPLE are claiming that the problems facing the NHS and in particular A&E and mental health are complex and hard to deal with. Total rubbish.

If you imagine that the NHS as a whole is a large tent, and you expect each night to house six people. One is injured so the other five contribute to the costs... you are able to manage. But then one night two extra people enter asking for food, they have no means of contribution and do not help with its care. You defer the costs around the initial five, it's a struggle but you just about manage.

But what if suddenly another five people wish to enter, they cannot contribute, demand a different kind of food. The extra cost and burden and now overspill will stretch you to the limits, it will impact on the initial six and especially those first five who paid. Eventually your tent can take no more, the food can no longer feed those around, and it's all in danger of collapse.

That is exactly what has happened in our NHS.

SHAUN HARRISON
West Bromwich

Hospitals are simply ego trips

SO hospitals are finding that they are increasingly unable to cope.

Is this any wonder when successive governments are hell bent on building super hospitals with smaller capacities than the hospitals being replaced?

We are constantly being told of our ageing and growing population but this seems to be ignored at every stage.

Who are these super hospitals for?

In my opinion, they seem like ego trips for the architects and those in power who are commissioning the building of these hospitals with little thought of whether the hospitals are either able to cope, or if they are user-friendly.

We read that already there is doubt about the new Midland Metropolitan Hospital being big enough.

Perhaps it's about time that those spending our money should talk to the staff and service users before making decisions in regard to super hospitals.

LEN HALES
Cradley Heath

Leaders are slow to trigger legislation

IN 2015, after more than 50,000 people joined the NSPCC's 'Flaw in the Law' campaign, the Government introduced legislation to arm police with new powers to tackle paedophiles.

It means an adult is breaking the law if they send a sexual communication to an under 16-year-old.

But now – almost two years later – the Government is dragging its feet and the law is yet to be triggered.

This is despite, over the last six years, Scotland has recorded 1,537 offences under similar legislation.

With Childline figures also showing the number of counselling sessions for children worried about online sexual abuse rose last year by 24 per cent, to 3,716, we've written to the Secretary of State for Justice asking why the law has been delayed.

This new offence was supposed to mean that the law could be brought to bear on anyone who grooms children online, yet in too many cases the police have been left powerless to take action to protect children.

The public have backed our campaign, Parliament has agreed to it and progress in Scotland shows that young victims are bravely coming forward and beginning to reveal the sickening numbers of adults targeting children for abuse.

ALLY SULTANA
NSPCC Midlands
Campaigns Manager

Votes resulted in park move

RE: Your recent article on the destruction of parkland in Princes End, Tipton, for housing. May I remind the people of Tipton that they voted for those who have brought this about.

I say stop voting Labour, Tory and Liberal, vote for anybody but them We pay their wages, they don't pay ours. Vote them out.

FT WOODCOCK
Wednesbury

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Ice cream blunder sparks apology to pupils' parents

MUSLIM children at schools in Sandwell were served ice cream containing pork gelatine after a supplier sent out the wrong product.

The error was said to have affected a 'small number' of schools across the borough, including Lodge Primary School in West Bromwich, where a letter has been sent to parents apologising for what happened.

The mistake was only flagged up after some pupils at the school, which has a large Muslim intake, had eaten the ice cream. The dessert was a new addition to the school's menu. Lodge Primary School headteacher Lisa Gillam said the mistake was 'unacceptable' after being provided with the ice-cream by SIPS Education.

She said the supplier had sent the wrong product and she would be making a formal complaint as eating pork is forbidden in Islam. The Oak Lane school has 430 pupils, with the number from ethnic minority backgrounds higher than average. Around 30 per cent are of Bangladeshi origin.

Ms Gillam, in a letter sent out on Friday, said: "I was writing to apologise as today at lunchtime some of the children unfortunately consumed some ice-cream which contained pork gelatine. We have spoken to SIPS, who are in charge of the menus, and they've informed us the supplier sent the wrong product in error.

"I understand this is not an acceptable reason as we do not serve any products to children that contain products such as gelatine and SIPS is aware of this as the majority of our children have vegetarian food.

"I have informed our chair of governors, Nigel Edge, and will be making a formal complaint." A spokesman for SIPS Education said: "A full and immediate investigation is in progress to resolve this matter."

Hit-and-run probe opens on woman, 88

THE inquest into a pensioner who was killed in a hit-and-run crash has been adjourned as police try to track down the driver.

Mary Elizabeth Humpherson, aged 88, who was known as Betty, was taken to hospital with serious injuries after being struck by a silver Ford Mondeo on Birmingham Road on October 21. The driver abandoned the car and ran off following the smash, which happened just before noon near the junction with Peak House Road.

Mrs Humpherson died later the same day.

Sgt Chris Ridge, collision investigator from West Midlands Police, said: "We have not identified a driver as such yet.

"Inquiries are still ongoing. Evidence has been gathered but it is DNA based. I am confident that we will identify a suspect in the next few weeks and an arrest will be made."

Morris dancers in city centre are heckled

A BLACK Country Morris dancer has described the actions of people who heckled a group of dancers with blackened faces as 'unacceptable'.

The dancers, who hail from Alvechurch, near Bromsgrove in Worcestershire, were threatened by a group of spectators during performances they put on in Birmingham city centre on Saturday, January 7, which took place in front of shoppers.

The dancers blackened their faces as part of the Border Morris tradition, which features groups from villages up and down the Welsh border – Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire. But they faced abuse from some people, who were accusing them of being racists during the performance.

Dave Jeffery, who is the treasurer at Sedgley Morris Dancers, was also in the city centre performing on the day, but was not present when the alleged abuse took place.

He said: "I can understand some people may think it is offensive – but this is an English tradition. The blackened faces are to provide a disguise, it has nothing to do with race. But what happened was unacceptable."

The Alvechurch dancers were one of several morris groups in the city on the day, celebrating Plough Monday.

The event marks the start of the agricultural year. Mr Jeffery said his group, which do the Border Morris dance, do not face common disruptions when performing.

Morris Dancers with blackened faces in Birmingham city centre were heckled. Picture courtesy of B4 Parking

Plants worth £100k found at property

CANNABIS plants with a street value of £100,000 were found growing at a property in Tipton.

Police raided a house in Hamilton Road in Great Bridge where the mini drugs factory was uncovered. A 31-year-old man was arrested at the scene last Wednesday.

Tweeting about the raid, @TiptonTownWMP said: "Tipton Ward officers conducted a drugs warrant on Hamilton Road Great Bridge this morning.

"There was approx street value of £100,000 pound worth of drugs found in the property.

"A 31-year-old male has been arrested and is currently helping officers with their inquiries."

Meanwhile in a separate raid police seized 30 plants at a property in Filey Road in the early hours of Wednesday.

Officers from the Low Hill, Fallings Park, Bushbury and Oxley Wolverhampton neighbourhood police team attended the property and shared the news of the discovery on social media.

Tweeting about the raid, @LowHillWMP said: "Officers seized over 30 Cannabis plants yesterday at an address in Filey Road, Fordhouses. #CannabisCultivation #InPoliceCustody #Drugs."

The news comes as police recently recovered £2 million of 'dirty money', including that which had been involved in drug crime, in less than a year. The money will now go to good causes.

NEC-based concrete show has mortar it

THE UK Concrete Show, now in its seventh year, will stop off at Birmingham's NEC next month. It is Europe's largest dedicated concrete show. The event is on February 15 and 16.

To register for tickets, visit www.concrete.smart-reg.co.uk/visitors.

Police plea over car

The car police want to trace

POLICE have released CCTV of a car they want to trace as they continue to investigate the death of a grandfather who was hit by a transit van on his way to work.

Paul Foster, 61, died at the scene in Aldridge Road near Perry Barr Greyhound Stadium around 6.20am on December 10. He was on his way to the bus depot where he worked as a driver.

After studying CCTV officers are keen to trace the driver of what is believed to be a small dark coloured Peugeot vehicle.

A 58-year-old man arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving remains on bail. Anyone with information should email Sgt Alan Wood at FL_COLLISION_INVEST@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Motorist hurt in crash

A MAN was taken to hospital following a crash between a car and with a lorry in Oldbury.

The 48-year-old was taken to Russells Hall Hospital, in Dudley, to be checked over following the smash just before 10am on the Wolverhampton Road, in Oldbury, yesterday.

Jamie Arrowsmith, West Midlands Ambulance spokesperson, said: "We were called to the scene of a collision between a lorry and a car.

"The car driver was fully conscious and treated at the scene for lower back pain. He was taken to hospital as a precautionary check. No other persons were injured."

Libraries in borough are among best nationally

AN army of volunteers and a packed programme of activities have put Sandwell libraries among the best in the country according to recent figures.

The borough came third out of 36 metropolitan authorities for the number of books borrowed and with more than 1.7 million people through the doors.

This represented the fourth highest number of visits. Figures for 2015-16 released by the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) also show Sandwell had the fifth highest use of computers and was the tenth highest for enquiries.

It had the second highest number of volunteers after recording 16,820 volunteer hours during the year.

Councillor Richard Marshall, cabinet member for leisure, said: "These are excellent results thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers, who despite facing a tough budget resulting from central government cuts, are providing an excellent service to our residents.

"Figures show that more than a million books were borrowed by Sandwell residents and visitors spent

By Lucy Thompson

more than 216,000 hours on library computers. Our staff and volunteers work hard at providing a packed programme of activities at our libraries making them active community hubs and unlike other boroughs we aren't cutting opening hours or closing libraries, in fact we are encouraging their use as can be seen by these figures."

Sandwell Library Service has lots of different roles for volunteers, from helping people to use computers, running knit and natter sessions, to helping run a café.

All libraries have friends groups, who are always looking for new members. Anyone looking to volunteer or join can ask at a library, or fill in the form on www.sandwell.gov.uk/libraries

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Youngsters on track for more success

Young athletes, left, Iris Oliarnyk, and right, Will Hall, with Sandwell leisure chief, Councillor Richard Marshall

IT'S going to be a big year for Sandwell's top young athletes, who are gearing up for a busy 2017.

Eighteen year old para-swimmer Scott Hadley, from Tipton, is aiming to build on a brilliant performance at the national pra-swimming championships in Manchester last month.

Overall Scott achieved four personal best performances from his seven races, including winning gold medals in the men's 100m Backstroke (category S8) and the men's 100m Breaststroke (category SB7) representing the Orion swimming club.

Scott also picked up two silver medals during the two-day meeting, when he was competing with some of the GB para-Olympic team from last summer's Rio games.

Seventeen-year-old William Hall from Cradley Heath is also looking forward to 2017. Hockey player Will is already rated as one of the top eight goalkeepers in the country after an impressive training camp with England Hockey at Loughborough and a starring role at the Hockey Futures Cup competition in September. Will is now setting his sights on breaking into the England U18 squad.

Another young athlete who ended the year on a high is 15-year-old Iris Oliarnyk, from Oldbury. Iris is already representing England in the pentathlon and recently won a team gold as part of the England team competing at Athlone in Ireland. Iris won an individual bronze medal with a personal best score of 3446 points.

2017 will be a big year for Iris, who is already among the top young pentathletes in the country and will now step up to compete in the heptathlon, meaning Iris will add the javelin and 200 metres to her skills set.

Councillor Richard Marshall, cabinet member for leisure and chairman of the Gifted & Talented sponsorship board said: "It's a privilege meeting people like Scott, Will and Iris and we are really excited at what all of our Gifted & Talented athletes will be achieving in 2017."

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VAUXHALL

Hospice services will now move to hospital

A DAY hospice in Oldbury will close with all its services moved to Rowley Regis Hospital, health bosses have announced. It follows a 12-week public consultation on Bradbury House after bosses said the building was 'no longer fit for purpose'.

The hospice in Wolverhampton Road, which is open four days a week, provides short programmes of care for patients across Sandwell.

Bosses say the range of services that are needed to 'ensure responsive and quality care' cannot be provided from the current site due to the state of the building.

Staff are unable to let people with severe mobility restrictions attend, due to the size of the building while managers have concerns about the site's security.

Services and workers will be transferred by April 1 and a satellite service developed. Transport will be provided but patients will have the choice or travelling to Rowley Regis, or visiting an outreach clinic where a specialist team will be available.

At the moment Bradbury House serves 12 patients a week over four days.

The service from Rowley Regis Community Hospital will be able to serve up to 60 patients a week over five days.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) made the decision to support Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust in moving the hospice services.

More than 500 people responded to the consultation. Hospital trust chief executive Toby Lewis said: "This is great news for patients, careers and staff."

Closure – Bradbury House hospice in Oldbury, which has been declared no longer fit for purpose

Stage is set for musical hopefuls

CHRISTMAS may be over for another year, but Birmingham Repertory Theatre is already on the lookout for young actors to star in the forthcoming world premiere production of Nativity! The Musical, which opens in Birmingham later this year.

Following on from the huge success of the Nativity! films, the theatre is looking for children who are confident singers, dancers and performers to audition for lead roles.

This exciting new stage show, written and directed by BAFTA award-winning Debbie Isitt, creator of the Nativity! films, premier's at Birmingham Repertory Theatre on 20 October and then tours to theatres in Southend, Sheffield, Manchester, Plymouth, London and Leeds where it finishes on January 6.

To audition for a lead part children need to be aged between 9 – 11 by September 1 2017, with a playing age of 6 – 10 years, no taller than 122cm and living in the West Midlands.

Full details at birmingham-rep.co.uk/news

The closing date is tomorrow, Friday.

Foresensic expertise knot to be sniffed at

A POLICE forensic expert who has helped solve dozens of serious crimes across the Black Country is being called on by other forces from across the world because of his expert knowledge of knots.

By Jack Averty

Rob Bone can help establish if someone was a murder victim, held captive during a robbery, or has deliberately bound themselves or taken their own life – all from the way a knot is tied.

He has been involved in hundreds of investigations locally as well as being called on abroad and in other parts of the UK. In 2010 he was able to prove that Bilston trucker Darren Walker had hung himself because of the way the knot for his noose was tied. Walker had hung himself after killing West Bromwich schoolgirl Stacey Lawrence.

Away from the Black Country his expertise was called on to help detectives probing the high-profile death of Russian tycoon Boris Berezovsky in Ascot; a series of sex attacks in Australia where women had been tied up; and an investigation by Ireland's Garda into a series of burglaries where victims had been bound by their hands and feet.

In 2015 he gave evidence at Birmingham Crown Court during the murder trial of Matthew Cherrington who stood accused of murdering Romanian-born Lidia Pascale and dumped her in a wheelie bin in Hope Street, West Bromwich.

He told the court spots of blood were found throughout Cherrington's property including on the cellar door, in the bathroom, in the hallways and on a fence.

Cherrington was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Last year Mr Bone helped secure the conviction of Cezary Sobiewski who killed his partner Barbara Baraniecka at an address in Standbridge Way, Tipton.

He was able to prove, just by footprints on the floor, that Ms Baraniecka, who was stabbed multiple times in the neck, and had forcibly been pushed down on a bed against her will.

Sobiewski pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced to life at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Speaking about his forensic work, Mr Bone said: "I started working in forensics in 1987 alongside a knot specialist and my interest was sparked by his vast knowledge. There are more than 4,000 different knots. It's not about being able to identify them all but more what you can learn from how they are tied and the materials used.""

Apprentice given award by Kristian

AN apprentice was presented with an award by Olympic gymnast Kristian Thomas after he overcame a debilitating stammer to win an award for customer service and land a job working in a top hospital.

Charlie Beddows, an apprentice at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, completed an apprenticeship as a receptionist at the organisation's learning hub.

His commitment to overcome a stammer that had held him back throughout his life saw him recognised with the trust's 2016 Brighter Futures Award and also saw him successfully secure his first permanent role at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham.

Charlie, who studied at Halesowen College, said: "I pinch myself every day that I'm doing the job I'm doing because not in a million years did I think I would be able to do what I'm doing."

Time to Beat the Street in initiative

AN initiative that had more than 300,000 walking and cycling in 2016 is set to return to Sandwell next month. Beat the Street will transform Rowley, Oldbury, Smethwick, West Bromwich, Tipton and Wednesbury into an 'interactive game' with local people rewarded with points and prizes for moving across their community.

More than 200 beeping and flashing sensors called Beat Boxes will be dotted across the area, which people can tap with cards and key fobs to track their journey. They will then receive points and win prizes either for their chosen school, community group or as individuals.

Beat the Street is being brought to Sandwell by the National Charity Partnership, a link up between Diabetes UK, the British Heart Foundation, BHF, and Tesco, who are working together to help millions of people improve their health through physical activity and healthy eating programmes.

Jenna Hall, programme director for the National Charity Partnership, said: "Beat the Street is a fun game that brings whole communities together.

"It encourages families to get involved in active travel." The scheme kicks off from Wednesday, February 8. To find out more, visit www.lets-dothis.org.uk

FOCUS ON TIPTON

Logistics firm en route for success as £10m hub opens

TIPTON logistics company Active Carriers is going from strength to strength after it expanded its services across Europe with a new super hub in Knüllwald, Germany.

As a member of Fradley-based Palletways, Europe's largest and fastest growing express palletised freight network, Active Carriers at Coneygre Estate and its customers will benefit from a new £10 million facility.

BY DAVID BANNER

The investment is in response to the increasing volumes currently handled by 56 German members in the Palletways network.

The new 50,000 sq metres site includes a 7,300 sq m transhipment hall, parking and infrastructure, which will upgrade services from the existing hub in Homberg and triple the delivery capacity across the region, and increase productivity by 10 per cent across Europe.

Palletways has also reserved space at the site for another, almost equally large area to accommodate future growth and create storage capacity for fulfilment services.

The new hub provides improved international services and core Palletways service centre drop-off and collection services for delivery of goods across Europe, backed by state-of-the-art operational processes, modern barcode scanning system and mechanical handling equipment.

Germany is one of the 20 countries that Active Carriers now delivers to across Europe and director Paul Adams said: "We can collect all small goods on one vehicle and deliver to multiple locations across Europe. The new hub facility in Knüllwald will enable us to offer a more frequent service to Germany."

Dave Walmsley, managing director of Palletways UK, said: "The new hub offers an outstanding improvement to our European connections for our UK customers. In-bound and outbound volumes between the UK and Germany will move across the network faster and more efficiently than before, which presents the opportunity for us to improve our customer service even further."

Victoria Chippy owner Stan Menicou seen with the Hill Top Rangers team

Boss chips in with new shirts deal

PLAYERS at a junior football team are celebrating being given new away shirts after a fish shop owner chipped in to help.

Hill Top Rangers were forced to play in bibs because of regular kit clashes with their opponents.

Manager Stephen Broadstock approached Stan Menicou, owner of the Victoria Chippy, Owen Street, Tipton, who agreed to sponsor the team and supply new strips. Stan eagerly agreed as he is very keen to help out in the local community, and provided the team with new shirts, proudly showing the name of Victoria Chippy.

Rangers are unbeaten this season and top of their league.

Stephen said: "Like everyone in the local area we are struggling for funds, and really did not want to be playing in bibs. The lads have performed so well so far this season, currently we are sixteen points clear."

New £6m football pitches due

FOOTBALL pitches could be created at two sites in Sandwell after council bosses revealed a plan to bid for millions of pounds of sports funding.

Sandwell Council wants to build 'football hubs' equipped with high-grade facilities in the north and south of the borough.

The Parklife Football Hub programme, which is backed by Sport England, the Football Association and Premier League, aims to boost sport participation and improve facilities at grassroots level. The cash-strapped authority would be able to apply for up to £6 million in funding for the hubs.

Locations for the pitches have not yet been decided but it is planned for one to serve Tipton, Wednesbury and West Bromwich and the other for Oldbury, Smethwick and Rowley Regis.

Museum in partners bid

THE Black Country Living Museum is seeking to add new members to its Business Partner scheme.

The museum in Tipton Road, Dudley, has a number of opportunities for business partners including entertaining clients, increasing brand awareness and staging special events.

To find out more about becoming one of its partners, or to discuss a bespoke package or sponsorship, e-mail development@bclm.com or call 0121 557 9643.

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Try a flying visit to club as drones take over skies

THEY were among the most popular presents at Christmas – but concerns around the flying of drones have been widespread.

And one Black Country man is so concerned about it he is inviting drone pilots to join his model flying club.

John Bates formed Sandwell Model Flying Club in 2015 and it has grown steadily and now can boast more than 30 members.

He is looking to boost those numbers further with drone pilots while at the same time making the skies of the Black Country a safer place.

Mr Bates, aged 70, from West Bromwich, said: "A lot of people with these drones are going over local parks.

"The problem with that is if the four eight-inch propellers on the top of a drone hit someone then that is going to cause nasty injuries.

Indemnity

"These people should really be going to clubs where members have to be in the British Model Flying Association.

"That costs just £33 for the year and covers you for £25 million indemnity insurance."

Pilots and others in the aviation industry are concerned about drones colliding with aircraft. In the UK alone, 64 near misses were reported from January to November 2016.

Pop star Enrique Iglesias was injured when he grabbed a drone during a concert while a toddler in Worcestershire lost an eye after a drone propeller sliced it in half.

Mr Bates said one of the problems is a lack of knowledge in the pilots.

He added: "Half the time people don't know what they are doing.

"It needs to be better regulated and what the Government is saying now is that anyone flying a drone has to have a pilots exam. We have that for model planes and helicopters. If we can get them off the parks then it takes the risk away. It is scary that drones are going to be flying everywhere soon and it is scary to think what will happen if one of them hits someone."

Inviting people to join the club, chairman and founder member John Bates

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones, are aircraft operated remotely without the pilot being aboard.

Some drones have fixed wings, like an aeroplane, but the most popular types have multiple rotors.

They range in price greatly, starting at about £40 for one with a camera, with more advanced models costing more than £1,000.

As well as making the region's skies safer, Mr Bates hopes drone pilots who join his club could go to take in interest in flying model planes. He said: "They might start on drones but they will see others flying planes and they may want to move to them at a later date." Anyone interested in joining the model flying club should call Mr Bates on 07775 740231 to arrange a meeting.

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Crashes and delays on the roads after snow arrives

SNOW showers and icy cold weather put the West Midlands on a go-slow last week. There was disruption as parts of the UK battled against snow and ice. Temperatures fell to around -1C (30F) overnight and only rose to around 4C (39F) though gusts of up to 40 mph made it feel colder.

Motorists along major roads faced long waits and local authority gritters were out in force to help deal with the ice.

In Great Barr, a car overturned following a collision with a lorry. The incident happened on the Aldridge Road-Paper Mill End junction at around 10.45am on Friday. The driver of the car managed to escape from the overturned vehicle before the emergency services arrived.

A spokesperson for the West Midlands Ambulance Service said: "The incident involved one patient, the driver, who was walking wounded. He did not require hospital treatment."

Due to the crash, bus diversions were in place with the popular Birmingham City Centre 997 service which was diverted both ways from Aldridge Road via Greenholm Road, Kingstanding Road and College Road. A three car collision in Horseley Fields, All Saints, Wolverhampton, happened at 3.35pm. No-one one was believed to be injured. Advice was issued for motorists to accelerate gently in the icy conditions, as well as maintain low revs and high gears.

West Midlands Ambulance Service said on Twitter: "Be prepared for difficult commute today. Snow in the West Midlands. Drive carefully & slow down. Out on foot? Choose shoes with good grip!"

An overturned car in Great Barr after a crash with a lorry during the bad weather @perrybarrfire

Radio show visits small venue in city

BBC Radio 6 Music disc jockey Steve Lamacq taking his show on the road, including to Birmingham, next week.

Across the week he is visiting some of the smallest music venues in the country as part of Independent Venue Week.

He will be at The Sunflower Lounge in Smallbrook Queensway, Birmingham, on Tuesday with his show that is aired from 4pm to 7pm.

"Now, more than ever, it's important to support small, grassroots venues around the country, because, while a lot of them continue to thrive, we've seen many of them shut down and many still under threat.

"We wanted to shine a light on these great little places, which nurture new talent and act as a meeting place for music fans.

"I've had some of the best moments of musical life in these little venues, watching all kinds of bands, including several who've gone on to huge success. But there's nothing like seeing a group at its most raw and engaging when they're first starting out, even if they're only playing to 100 people," he said.

Memorial unveiling in honour of captain

A MEMORIAL stone is being unveiled in West Bromwich to honour a First World War hero who was awarded the Victoria Cross medal – exactly 100 years to the day since he was involved in heroic action.

West Bromwich-born Captain Robert Edwin Phillips was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1917 for his bravery while serving as a lieutenant in Mesopotamia on January 25, 1917.

A commemorative paving stone will be unveiled by the war memorial in Dartmouth Park at 11am on Wednesday 25 January. There will be a parade starting at the park's café around 10.40am with a short service and two-minute silence by the war memorial around 11am.

Everyone is welcome to join the event and Sandwell's Mayor Councillor Julie Webb will be there too. Members of Captain Phillips' family have also been invited and are expected to attend.

Captain Phillips

Temporary

Mr Phillips, who was born in Queen Street, Hill Top, in 1895, was awarded the VC when he was 21 years old and a temporary lieutenant in the 13th Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

He received the award for his actions during fierce fighting with the Turks near Kut in Mesopotamia – now part of modern day Iraq and Syria.

The brave soldier went out with a comrade under heavy enemy fire to bring their mortally wounded commanding officer back behind British lines. Councillor Steve Melia, town lead member for West Bromwich, who has taken a special interest in Captain Phillips, said British troops had been driven out of their trenches.

He said: "Colonel Henderson, the commanding officer of the 9th Battalion, was severely wounded during the battalion's attack to regain the position. Captain Phillips showed great courage both during the attack and in bringing Colonel Henderson back to the British trenches."

Captain Phillips survived the war and died in Cornwall in 1968.

Festival has Fairport and Hoosiers on bill

AN all-star line-up will take to the stage for a Midland music festival this summer. The Uttoxeter Racecourse Acoustic Festival of Britain is due to take place from June 2-4. Among the line-up are folk-rock legends Fairport Convention, who celebrate their 50th anniversary this year.

Founding member of Wishbone Ash, Martin Turner, will appear with his band performing a selection of music from the back catalogue, including tracks from albums like Argus, Pilgrimage as well as material from his own albums.

Chart-topping three-piece Hoosiers will also take to the stage with their Anglo-American pop-rock.

Also appearing are folk-punk band the Men They Couldn't Hang, synth-pop performer Howard Jones, Irish psych-folk two-piece Tir Na Nog, English rock-eccentric John Otway, Ed Tudor Pole, TV Smith, Nick Harper, T Rex tribute act T Rexstasy.

For ticket prices see www.acousticfestival.co.uk

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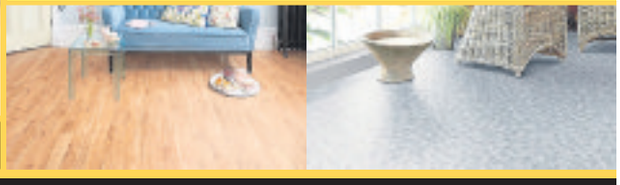

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Terror threat to see tree cut down

The large London plane tree, estimated to be nearly 100 years old on Broad Street, just outside of the city's library

A LANDMARK 100-year-old tree in Birmingham city centre is to be cut down – so council bosses can replace it with concrete bollards to prevent terror attacks.

The tree, in Broad Street, faces the chop so concrete benches can be built in a bid to beef up security in the city centre.

The decision is part of a £10 million revamp of the square, which will see heavy stone benches with deep foundations installed to deter terrorists from ploughing trucks into crowds.

The London plane tree, which has been there since the 1930s, is one of 25 tress to be removed in the coming weeks.

Originally it had been thought the tree was being cut down to allow for a Metro tram extension, but Birmingham City Council deputy leader, Ian Ward, has since confirmed it is to prevent terrorism.

Cause of fire probed

FIRE chiefs have been trying to establish the cause of a huge blaze which gutted a West Bromwich restaurant.

More than 50 firefighters battled to save the first and second floors of the Royale Garden Caribbean restaurant as the fire tore through the building just after 10.30am on January 4.

It come just hours after an arson attack at a nearby pizza shop. High Street was closed throughout the day, but police are not linking both the fires. The back of the restaurant was most severely hit.

Last week, nearby businesses explained how the owners had returned to the restaurant and removed any belongings. Shutters remained up at the front as charred remains were still on the the pavement. The upstairs windows remained open with smoke damaged curtains hanging out.

Ann Yates, who has worked at Attewell Opticians directly opposite the restaurant for 36 years, said: "There was just lots of smoke coming from the back of the building and dozens of fire fighters arrived. It took the roof off around the back and one of the floors. Then we were told to leave just after midday as they closed off the road so we had to shut up."

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Former midwife's smile reborn

'I'd grown tired of living my life around my teeth'

Former Dudley community midwife Vicki Ball, left, is full of smiles after getting new teeth and an implant solution to a long-standing stabilisation problem. 'I love my new teeth,' she says

MEETING Vicki Ball is all about the smiles – lots of them. She's generous with her compliments, can't wait for her next holiday adventure and has the most infectious of laughs.

Her company is light and she's gushing with the praise about her new look.

A retired community midwife who was based at the former Wordsley Hospital, the bubbly 60-something-year-old is quick to affirm: "I love my new teeth and they look natural, don't they?"

Adding: "You can't tell they're not my own," Vicki admits her smile has not always been her favourite attribute. "I've always had trouble with my teeth; even as a young girl they crumbled and my gums used to bleed. Even though I was diligent about looking after them, they still let me down," she adds.

Two years ago, Vicki finally lost her remaining teeth. "I really don't know why my teeth were so bad, but I was the youngest of eight children and I understand my mother's priorities did not include teaching me how to brush my teeth. She had more pressing priorities of how she was going to put food on the table," Vicki recalls.

A teenager by the time she had her first tooth brush, she is convinced she couldn't have done more to save her own teeth.

"For the last 18 months I've put up with ill-fitting and badly made dentures. My gums were always sore and the bottom denture was unstable.

Researching options

"My top teeth I could secure with a fixative, but for the bottom it was a waste of time – as soon as I had anything to eat the stability was over," says Vicki.

Her diet became restricted, avoiding beef and crispy fruits like apples.

Frustrated by the appearance and function of her teeth – they seemed to be set too far back, Vicky says – she started researching her options.

"I'd grown tired of living my whole life around my teeth. I never really stopped going out, but when I did, I was always thinking ahead where I could go to take my teeth out. They were just so uncomfortable."

A self-confessed lover of travel overseas – "it's my hobby" – Vicki saw an article in her local newspaper about Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) and his work at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

North Street's dental implant surgeon, Dr Owain Rees (left) BDS, DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576 with principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353

"I'd seen a piece about suction dentures and implant retained dentures and there seemed to be a solution for me," she says.

After seeing Steven and implant surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDP (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL), Vicki's treatment included two implants to stabilise a lower over denture and the prescribing of high quality traditional upper dentures to help support her facial features. "From start to finish it took 14 weeks, but it was worth the wait. When I first saw my teeth in the mirror, I thought they looked just like real teeth and . . . they feel like my own teeth.

Such a relief

"My husband, Terry, couldn't believe they were so good. Not to have to keep thinking about my teeth when I'm out is such a relief," she says.

Steven says: "Mrs Ball needed dentures that would offer proper support to her facial features.

"These days the term 'facelift' dentures is banded about. The claim is spurious, but with the correct setting of teeth, the effect is to lift the facial structures in the same way natural healthy gums and teeth support tissues and muscles. I'm very please to have been part of giving a new birth the Vicki's smile."

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Ambitious Manor House restoration is approved

AMBITIOUS plans to invest more than £2.5 million in a historic landmark building have won approval from council leaders.

Sandwell Council is applying for money from the Heritage Lottery Fund so it can restore the timber-framed Grade I Manor House in Stone Cross which dates back to the 13th century.

Councillors have given the go-ahead to apply for funding which, if successful, will improve access to more of the historic house, remove unsympathetic extensions, correct patched and temporary repairs and enhance the grounds.

Councillor Richard Marshall, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for leisure, said: "Our aim is to restore and improve the Manor House so it can take its justifiable place as one of the most significant heritage buildings in the West Midlands."

Structure

A significant programme of physical works is proposed in line with the recommendations of the 2011 Conservation Plan as part of the work to the building if the bid is successful.

A report before councillors outlines a programme of repairs to the physical structure of the building including the removal of inappropriate 20th century materials and repairs in line with current best practice as specified in the Conservation Plan.

Officers want to improve the physical access around the building through alterations in floor levels, re-opening historic doorways and new improved staircases and upper floor access.

And they want to remove the poor quality extensions to the building dating back to the days when it was used as a pub in the 1960s as well as provide new facilities including a classroom and toilets in adjacent buildings.

£2.5 million investment – The Manor House, at Hall Green Road, West Bromwich

Officers say a successful bid would also enable further archaeological investigations in significant parts of the building, particularly the chapel range and the newly-discovered 15th century bakery.

They would also carry out a range of hard landscaping improvements including developing dedicated pedestrian access from Hall Green Road, relaying and re-organising the car park and developing part of the existing car park as a hard-surfaced events area.

Councillor Marshall added: "If we get funding, then the capital works will enable more and better events at the Manor House and make it a quality asset in the heart of the community."

Council officers will now seek a stage-one pass for development funding of £142,000 as part of an overall capital project with a total value of £2,500,00 with 80 per cent support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the 20 per cent from Sandwell Council. The development phase is estimated at costing £142,000 with a council contribution of £28,400.

Restart of China flights in spotlight

BIRMINGHAM Airport has confirmed it is in talks with an unnamed airline to try and reinstate regular flights to China.

The West Midlands airport suffered a major blow last year when plans for regular flights between Birmingham and Beijing and Shanghai collapsed.

Just weeks before the service was due to start the Chinese tour operator, Caissa Touristic, pulled out. Birmingham had been hoping to rival the new China service launched by Manchester last summer.

Manchester Airport and Hainan Airlines were due to host a Chinese New Year event at Birmingham's House of Fraser store on Wednesday evening to promote their direct flights.

A spokesman for Birmingham Airport, said: "Demand for flights to China from Birmingham is significant, driven mainly by the Midlands' strong trading relationship with China and we are in discussions with a carrier to reinstate services in the future."

A series of summer flights over those two years proved hugely successful, with thousands of Chinese tourists flocking to the region. The airport spokesman added: "China is an enormous growth market for the UK with many regions increasing trade with Chinese companies – it's therefore surprising that another region should need to come to our city to promote its services."

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Inspiration of girl who overcame terrible burns

SHE is the young patient who will forever be etched in the mind of physiotherapist Beth Sykes.

The little girl had suffered nearly 90 per cent burns and was in so much pain that she could barely move.

Determined to nurse her back to health, Beth worked alongside the youngster for six months, until she was able to walk again. "At that moment, I felt all of the hard work was worth it, and it was why I became a physiotherapist", recalled Beth, who is the Team Lead for the Rapid Response Team at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (SWBH).

Speaking of the experience, Beth, a student at the time, added: "When I first saw her, she was in such a deep pain and could not move. After six months of physiotherapy from myself and my colleague who was training me, she was able to walk."

Recover

She added: "I spend a lot of time with my patients and that is how I develop a bond with them. I find this helps a lot with the treatment, because they develop their trust and confidence in me, which in turn helps them to recover quickly."

The 29-year-old decided to become a physiotherapist when she was 18 because of the care she had received herself through an injury she had in her hometown of Burton. Beth continued: "My career aspiration came when I was admitted to hospital when I was 18. I had suffered a torn ligament in my knee after playing netball.

"I was cared for by a physiotherapist who treated me with kindness. That, coupled with my interest in biology and anatomy, made me feel that physiotherapy was the right choice for me."

Beth began working at SWBH seven years ago and now she is part of one of the core teams that help to support frail patients.

Speaking about her job, Beth explained: "There are eight people in our team who need to work very fast to support our colleagues at A&E departments. We see the patients within 10 minutes of getting the call. We assess their physical conditions and provide them a discharge plan. I love every minute working with the team. It's a fast-paced environment and we get to look after patients from different walks of life."

The physiotherapist is also the Trust's Dementia Champion. She explained: "No matter where you work, you will get to see dementia patients and I think it's very important for staff to learn how to provide the best support. You do need to learn how to communicate to dementia patients and understand what they go through. I always make sure that patients get to speak first and I listen to them very carefully."

Along with treating patients and managing her team, Beth sometimes gives lectures at the University of Birmingham, where she graduated in 2009. She said: "I enjoy sharing my knowledge with my colleagues and students as I believe education enables us to provide the best outcomes for our patients."

The Trust's new electronic patient record system is an exciting new development for Beth. The programme will help bring more co-ordinated care to patients. She said: "This is such an important project for our Trust and patients. Once the system is rolled out, the difference in people's care will be tremendous."

So who is Beth's hero? "Andy Murray inspires me in many ways," she added. "He is resilient and he works hard to achieve his ambitions. At the same time, he is very humble."

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.

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BETH SYKES
Physiotherapist

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Declan McKenna

Wednesday, 7.30pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
Longlisted for the BBC's Sound of 2017, this Hertfordshire teenager is a tip for the top with his quirky pop. Check out recent single Isombard.
Visit **hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk**

King Creosote

Saturday, 7.30pm
Town Hall, Birmingham
Fife singer-songwriter Kenny Anderson (AKA King Creosote, above) brings his distinctive modern folk, complete with bagpipes, in the wake of latest album Astronaut Meets Appleman.
Visit **www.thsh.co.uk**

Primitive London feat Juice Aleem

Wednesday, 8pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
Birmingham rapper Juice Aleem (pictured), formerly of hip-hop trio New Flesh, joins the Anglo-French imaginary soundtrack quartet. Support from electronic outfit Delta Autumn. Visit **bit.ly/primitivelondonftjuicealeem**

Brendan Cole - All Night Long

Thursday (Jan 26), 7.30pm
Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
The Strictly Come Dancing professional brings his latest choreographed spectacular out on tour with lots of dancers plus a band and singers on stage.
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The US rockers hope their fans will enjoy A Day To Remember at their concert in Birmingham

Energetic frontman Jeremy McKinnon

This band will be a name to remember

McKinnon delivers emotional material in Bad Vibrations

IF the musical genre metalcore is a mystery to you, then Florida's A Day To Remember may be the biggest band you've never heard of.

But this pop-punk outfit from Ocala have become massive Stateside since releasing their debut And Their Name Was Treason in 2005.

They've sold more than a million units, racked up over 400 million Spotify streams and 500 million YouTube views, garnered two gold-selling albums and singles (and one silver album in the UK) and sold out entire continental tours (including their own curated Self Help Festival). They have amassed a global fanbase whose members number in the millions.

All of which explains why Rolling Stone called them "An Artist You Need To Know."

On Wednesday they play the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham with support from fellow Florida rockers New Found Glory, Wrexham pop-punkers Neck Deep and Kent emo outfit Moose Blood.

For new album Bad Vibrations, the quintet of vocalist Jeremy McKinnon, guitarists Kevin Skaff and Neil Westfall, bassist Joshua Woodard and drummer Alex Shelnutt switched gears and headed for uncharted territory. Their path included a loose and much more collaborative songwriting process, one that also saw them recording for the first time with producers Bill Stevenson (Descendents, Black Flag) and Jason Livermore (Rise Against, NOFX).

Although the album is being released on the band's own ADTR Records (like 2013's Common Courtesy), this record marks their first distribution deal with Epitaph and is the first time they've worked with Grammy winner Andy Wallace (Foo Fighters, Slayer).

"We completely changed the way we wrote, recorded and mixed this album," says vocalist McKinnon. "It was one of the most unique recording experiences we've ever had.

"We rented a cabin in the Colorado mountains and just wrote with the five of us together in a room, which was the polar opposite of the last three albums we've made. We just let things happen organically and in the moment.

"I think it forever changed the way we make music. And working with Bill was an awesome experience. He was a bit hard to read at first, so I think we subconsciously pushed ourselves harder to try to impress him. As a result, we gave this album everything we had."

Kinetic

Recorded at Stevenson's Fort Collins-based Blasting Room Studios, Bad Vibrations channels the kinetic energy that found A Day To Remember named "The Best Live Band Of 2015" by Alternative Press.

The band decided to forgo digitally driven production and focus on live recording. "These days it seems like a lot of heavy sounding music is heading more and more in a digital direction," says McKinnon. "That's not necessarily a bad thing but we wanted to go the opposite way and make something that's aggressive but has more of a natural flow and feel to it."

Ultimately, McKinnon says that this particular album-making process breathed new life into the band. He adds: "Breaking out of our comfort zone and working in a less controlled way, we ended up making something that feels good to everyone, and we can't wait to go out and tour on it."

By powering Bad Vibrations with so much raw passion, A Day To Remember ultimately deliver some of their most emotionally intense material to date.

"I'm singing about the things that are frustrating me," says Mckinnon. "But at some point there's an arc within the song. It's almost like I'm giving advice to another person about whatever I'm struggling with, but I think I'm really just trying to give that advice to myself."

The band tackles duplicity and deception (on the frenzied 'Same About You'), the destructive nature of judgmental behaviour (on 'Justified', a track shot through with soaring harmonies and sprawling guitar work), addiction (on the darkly charged 'Reassemble'), and friendship poisoned by unchecked ego (on 'Bullfight,' a track with a classic-punk chorus).

Check out listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Its' Taylor-made for Pretty Reckless rock

The Pretty Reckless, fronted by Taylor Momsen, are back with recent album Who You Selling For and a Birmingham gig

AMERICAN rock band The Pretty Reckless, fronted by former Gossip Girl actress Taylor Momsen, perform in Birmingham tomorrow night (Friday), following the release of third studio album Who You Selling For.

Released in October, that album was the follow-up to Going to Hell, which included one of the biggest rock songs of 2014, Heaven Knows.

The latest album features songs with bluesy undertones, written by singer-guitarist Momsen and lead guitarist Ben Phillips, and is produced by the band's longtime collaborator Kato Khandwala, who has also worked with Blondie, Paramore and My Chemical Romance.

Formed in 2009, The Pretty Reckless released their debut album Light Me Up in 2010 scoring legions of fans worldwide, but it was their second album Going to Hell that really established the band, and Momsen as a creditable rock singer as well as actress and model. Despite feeling the physical and emotional demands from their epic two-year tour supporting Going to Hell, Momsen and Phillips jumped right into writing the songs for the new album.

"We had so much we wanted to say, it was like shaking a can of soda on tour and then when we started writing we cracked the seal," says Momsen. "The touring life is very isolating. You look at the world through a bus or airplane window. But music is the healing factor. It saved us – again."

The Pretty Reckless are at Birmingham's O2 Institute, Digbeth, doors open 6.30pm.

Glenn's men at the Robin

CANNOCK rock star Glenn Hughes has spoken of his excitement at coming back to the UK this month for a tour.

The legendary singer and bassist, who is currently in the studio in LA recording a new studio album with rock supergroup Black Country Communion, has released an official statement to his fans about touring the UK this month.

He cancelled a similar tour which was set to take place last November just weeks before it started after a fall-out with support band Living Colour, who removed themselves from the bill at short notice.

Hughes will return to the Black Country on Monday night for a show at Bilston's Robin 2.

The California-based rocker said: "I'm thrilled to be coming over to tour the UK and Europe this month and February.

"My band will now be a four piece. On guitar is Søren Andersen, on drums Pontus Engborg, and on keyboards Jay Boe. Song selections will be a mix from my new album Resonate, and from my well of historic songs through the decades."

Previously Hughes has fronted Deep Purple, Trapeze and more recently supergroup Black Country Communion. He was also the voice of The KLF's hit What Time Is Love?

Hughes will be supported by Walsall band Stone Broken. Tickets cost £22.50 in advance or £24.50 on the door. Contact 01902 401 211 or visit www.therobin.co.uk

Stray marking 50th milestone with gig

ROCK four-piece Stray are celebrating 50 years together with a gig at the Robin 2 in Bilston on Sunday. Four school friends formed the group in London in 1966, releasing their first album in 1970 and have been performing ever since. Still led by guitarist Del Bromham, the band play a melodic mix of hard rock and heavy blues.

The Superskas play the venue tomorrow (Friday), there is a charity gig by The Busby Babes on Saturday and Glenn Hughes plays on Monday (see above). On Tuesday there is blues from Lil' Jimmy Reed, and more blues from Eric Sardinas on Wednesday, and then it's time to jive, with King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys, supported by Ricky Cool and The In Crowd, at the Mount Pleasant venue on Thursday.

Tributes take limelight with feast of nostalgia

THE New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham is preparing for soundalikes next weekend when it holds three consecutive tribute concerts, starting on Thursday with The Bowie Experience.

The two-hour concert celebrates the music of David Bowie, who would have been 70 last week if not for his death a year ago. The band is fronted by Laurence Knight in costume in several Bowie guises.

On January 27 Someone Like You features the Adele songbook, performed in concert by Kate Markham. The Carpenters Story on January 28 features Claire Furley as Karen Carpenter, the velvet-voiced singer who performed in The Carpenters. Also on Saturday, January 28, the Robin 2 presents the ultimate 70s night with Bootleg Abba and Bee Gees Fever.

Orchestra play score alongside Blood epic

THE 50-piece London Contemporary Orchestra will be performing the score by Jonny Greenwood for Oscar-winning movie There Will Be Blood live alongside a screening of the epic at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Sunday, February 5.

The soundtrack, by the Oxford-born guitarist and keyboardist from acclaimed experimental rock band Radiohead, added to the success of director Paul Thomas Anderson's drama set during the California oil boom of the early 1900s.

Described as a 'masterpiece' by some critics, the film won Academy Awards for actor Daniel Day-Lewis and cinematographer Robert Elswitt.

Tickets cost from £28 to £48 for the 7pm performance. See www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 4949.

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, January 19, 2017

CHOICE

Jennifer Hudson

The Voice UK (ITV, 8pm)
The competition forges ahead as the third round of blind auditions arrives. Coaches Will.i.am, Tom Jones, Jennifer Hudson and Gavin Rossdale have already started to fill spaces on their teams, and with their initial acts now decided, chances are that the coaches will now start to clash over claiming the most exceptional singers to fill their rosters. When this happens, the competition turns on its head, with the coaches now competing against each other to explain why they would be the perfect mentor for the budding music stars. Emma Willis is on hosting duties, and goes backstage with the contestants' families.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Live Snooker: The Masters. The opening semi-final. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.30** Who Dares Wins.

6.10 Pointless Celebrities. TV experts Kieran Long, Piers Taylor, Martin Roberts, Amanda Lamb, Vicki Butler-Henderson, Tiff Needell, John Hammond and Laura Tobin compete in the unorthodox quiz show.

7.00 Let It Shine. The nationwide talent hunt continues, as Mel Giedroyc and Graham Norton host a third round of auditions in Manchester. More hopeful stars take part in solo auditions in front of judges Gary Barlow, Dannii Minogue, Martin Kemp and Amber Riley, who are each afforded a/ chance to rate each act out of five stars. As ever, the boys taking to the stage must achieve 15 stars or more to remain in the running to claim a place in Let It Shine's five-strong headline act.

8.25 Casualty. Iain faces an unexpected reunion with his estranged younger sister Gem, a young offender whose supervisor is admitted to the ED after she is struck over the head with a wok.

9.15 Taboo. James Delaney finds himself alone with the mysterious Dr Dumbarton, and ends up discovering he has an unlikely ally. However, with enemies lurking in every corner of London society, James realises Dumbarton's friendship will be but the first in a series of perilous affiliations he will need to make if he is to complete his mission – or avoid meeting an untimely fate. As he works to prevent further attempts on his life, James realises the only way to slip the gaze of his enemies is to give them a more pliable target to destroy in his place. Drama, starring Tom Hardy.

10.10 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights.

11.55 The NFL Show. Mark Chapman looks ahead to the Conference Championship games.

12.25 Film: Paycheck. (2003) **2.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Film: Mary of Scotland. (1936) John Ford's historical drama chronicling the turbulent reign of Mary, Queen of Scots, and her power struggle with Queen Elizabeth I. Katharine Hepburn stars. **8.30 Film:** I Know Where I'm Going! (1945) A woman sets out to marry for money but falls for a dashing but penniless naval officer instead. Powell and Pressburger's romantic drama, starring Wendy Hiller and Roger Livesey. **10.00** Secret Britain. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. (R) **1.00** Debbie Reynolds: Talking Pictures. **1.30 Film:** Bundle of Joy. (1956) Musical comedy, starring Debbie Reynolds as a salesgirl who finds an abandoned baby which everyone assumes is hers. With Eddie Fisher. **3.05** Tennis: Australian Open Highlights. **4.30** Live Snooker: The Masters. Hazel Irvine presents concluding coverage of the opening semi-final, played over the best of 11 frames on day six at Alexandra Palace in London. **5.30** Only Connect. (R)

6.00 Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise. The mountains and forests of Northern Thailand, an area that is home to a variety of wildlife, leading to unusual partnerships developing between animals and people. Last in the series. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The Masters. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the second semi-final, played over the best of 11 frames on day six at Alexandra Palace in London. Despite being an invitational event, this tournament is considered one of the more prestigious on the snooker calendar, and with the winner set to claim a cheque for £200,000, both of the players in this contest will be eager to progress to tomorrow's final. With commentary and analysis by Steve Davis, Ken Doherty, Stephen Hendry, John Parrott, Dennis Taylor and John Virgo.

10.30 Film: Looper. (2012) A hitman employed to kill people who have been sent back in time finds his latest target is his future self. Sci-fi thriller, with Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Bruce Willis.

12.20 Snooker: The Masters – Extra. Hazel Irvine presents extended highlights of the opening semi-final in this year's tournament, played over the best of 11 frames on day six at Alexandra Palace in London. **2.20** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Rebound. (R) **10.25** Guess This House. (R) **11.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** River Monsters. (R) **1.05** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **2.05** Tipping Point. (R) **3.05** The Chase. (R) **4.05** Dance Dance Dance. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 You've Been Framed! and Fearless. Harry Hill showcases hilarious white-knuckle hijinks from the show's archive, all of which reveal that danger could lurk in even the most unlikely of places.

7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. Competitors from across the nation test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. Those who make it to the end of the adrenaline-fuelled mission face one final task – scaling the heights of a tower named Mount Midoriyama – as they battle it out for the title of Ninja Warrior UK.

8.00 The Voice UK. Emma Willis presents the third round of blind auditions, with coaches Will.i.am, Tom Jones, Jennifer Hudson and Gavin Rossdale aiming to bolster their teams further.

9.30 Through the Keyhole. Marvin Humes, Kate Garraway and Jimmy Carr are challenged to discover the identities of three more mystery celebrities, using only clues found in their homes. Hosted by Keith Lemon.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 Film: I Am Legend. (2007) A Manhattan-based scientist tries to find a cure for a viral plague that has turned all other humans into vampire-like creatures. Sci-fi thriller, with Will Smith.

12.30 Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 The King of Queens. (R) **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **12.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **4.15** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.20** Grand Designs. (R)

6.15 Channel 4 News.

6.40 Film: Snow White & the Huntsman. (2012) An evil queen learns that her reign will last for ever if she kills a princess, so sends a renowned warrior to find and murder her. However, he comes to realise his mistress's evil ways, and instead trains his intended victim to fight so they can bring the tyrant's rule to an end. Fantasy adventure, with Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth and Charlize Theron.

9.00 Film: The Other Woman. (2014) Premiere. A woman is devastated to learn her boyfriend is actually married, but when she meets his wife, they quickly become friends. When they discover he has a third secret lover, they decide to join forces and teach him a lesson. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz, Leslie Mann, Kate Upton and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau.

11.10 Film: The Watch. (2012) A supermarket manager forms a neighbourhood watch group to patrol his community, but stumbles on an alien invasion. Sci-fi comedy, starring Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn.

1.00 Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Esther still cannot remember anything from the shooting, and Lisa and Mac are left feeling guilty about having sex in the cellar while Nathan was being attacked. **3.10** The Secret Life of 6 Year Olds. The documentary moves on to a new, older group. (R) **4.00** Shipping Wars UK. Shahbaz runs into trouble in France when his van makes a strange noise. (R) **4.40** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. Transforming a living room, hall and bedroom. (R) **4.55** Location, Location, Location. An update on a property hunt in Aberdeen. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.00** Big Bash Cricket. **11.35 Film:** Escape to Victory. (1981) **1.50** Police Interceptors: Takedown. (R) **2.20** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **3.20** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.15** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **5.15** The Yorkshire Vet. (R)

6.15 NCIS: Los Angeles. The team uncovers an alliance between al-Qaeda and a Mexican drug cartel when a shoot-out at a pawn shop is investigated.

7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. Hetty enlists the help of a former colleague when an ex-Navy intelligence officer is murdered, but things go awry when her old friend threatens to kill her. The team races to save Hetty and expose her one-time workmate as having lied to the victim in order to make money from a seemingly charitable venture.

8.00 NCIS. A US Marine is found murdered in Quantico, mere hours after calling Gibbs to discuss a possible case. In response, Bishop and McGee go undercover as a married couple to run surveillance on a lieutenant and his wife, who may be connected to the death. Starring Mark Harmon and Michael Weatherly.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce action from the latest fixtures, which included Queens Park Rangers v Fulham at Loftus Road, Derby County v Reading at Pride Park, and Barnsley v Leeds United at Oakwell.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the latest matches in Leagues One and Two, including Southend United v Bolton Wanderers, and Blackpool v Yeovil Town.

10.30 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.

11.35 Lip Sync Battle UK: Katie Price vs Ben Fogle. Melanie Brown and Professor Green present as reality star and author Katie Price and presenter and adventurer Ben Fogle go head to head lip-synching to hit songs. (R)

12.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** Celebrity Botched Up Bodies. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Patagonia with Huw Edwards **8.00** Treasures of the Indus **9.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **10.00** The Young Montalbano **11.40** Top of the Pops **12.55** Imagine – Sir Roderick Stewart: Can't Stop Me Now **2.20** Rod Stewart Live at Hyde Park **3.20** Sounds of the 70s **3.50** Close

ITV2
11.15 Ninja Warrior UK **12.20 Film:** Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011) **1.20** FYI Daily **1.25 Film:** Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011) **2.10 Film:** Space Jam (1996) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15 Film:** Space Jam (1996) **3.55 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **5.45 Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50 Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **9.00 Film:** Hellboy II: The Golden Army (2008) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Hellboy II: The Golden Army (2008) **11.20** Family Guy **12.50** American Dad! **1.45** Dads **2.10** Safeword **2.45** Rixton: The Hot Desk **2.55** Teleshopping

ITV3
2.50 Wycliffe **4.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.00** Blue Murder **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.00 Pawn Stars **11.30 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **1.20** Barcelona's European Glory **1.30** ITV Racing Live from Ascot. Coverage of today's race meetings. **4.00 Film:** The Dam Busters (1954) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** The Dam Busters (1954) **6.35** Pawn Stars **7.00** The Boxing Mavericks **8.00** Big Fight Live. Robbie Davies v Willie Limond. **11.00 Film:** Jaws (1975) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10 Film:** Jaws (1975) **1.40** Hell on Wheels **2.35** World Cup Top Goalscorers **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4
3.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00 Film:** The Addams Family (1991) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Terminator Salvation (2009) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.10** Rude Tube: Rude Zoo **2.10** Rude Tube: Extreme Rides **3.05** Chewing Gum

Film4
11.00 The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951) **1.00** Flight of the Navigator (1986) **2.45** The Lost World (1960) **4.40** One Fine Day (1996) **6.50** The Time Traveler's Wife (2009) **9.00** Lone Survivor (2013)

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CHOICE

Claire Danes

Homeland (Channel 4, 9pm)
New series. The espionage drama returns, picking up events several months after the climax of season five, which saw a terrorist attack in Berlin being thwarted, and follows the characters through the handover process following a presidential election. Carrie returns to the US with Franny to work with a foundation that provides aid to the Muslim community. Dar and Saul brief the newly elected President as the process of transferring power gets underway, while Quinn struggles to adapt to his new circumstances. Claire Danes, Elizabeth Marvel, Rupert Friend and F Murray Abraham star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Flog It! (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Lifeline. **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Spy in the Wild. (R)

6.00 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 Countryfile. The latest rural developments, including reports on issues affecting country communities and insights into the life of the modern farmer. Including weather for the week ahead.

7.30 Still Open All Hours. Granville tries to sell a huge wheel of cheese which is long past its sell by date. Leroy gets sick of delivering goods by bicycle and demands his father invest in a van.

8.00 Call the Midwife. New series. The nuns and midwives return home after their trip to South Africa, to find Nonnatus House has come under new management. The formidable Sister Ursula (Harriet Walter) has taken charge and introduced some drastic changes to the way the clinic is run, which Sister Julienne, bound by her vow of obedience, is powerless to oppose. The midwives come to the aid of a victim of domestic violence whose husband is about to be released from prison, and who risks losing everything if she seeks a divorce. Sister Mary Cynthia suffers further anxiety attacks, and Patsy receives distressing news about her father.

9.00 Apple Tree Yard. New series. Thriller based on Louise Doughty's novel about a scientist who has an affair that leads to a violent incident threatening everything she holds dear. With Emily Watson.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, which featured Southampton v Leicester City, Arsenal v Burnley and Chelsea v Hull City.

11.40 A Question of Sport. (R)

12.10 The Celebrity Apprentice USA. **1.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Coast. (R) **7.15** A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **8.00** An Island Parish: Anguilla. (R) **8.30** The Edible Garden. (R) **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Talking Snooker. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Live Snooker: The Masters. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the opening eight frames of the final from Alexandra Palace, London, where the best-of-19-frames match takes place. **5.15** Tennis: Australian Open Highlights.

6.15 Ski Sunday. Coverage of the men's downhill on the Hahnenhamm in Kitzbuhel, Austria, and the women's downhill in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. Plus, an interview with innovative snowboarder Billy Morgan, who continues to push the boundaries in freestyle.

7.00 Live Snooker: The Masters. Hazel Irvine presents concluding coverage of the final from Alexandra Palace, London, where a maximum of 11 frames will be played to decide this year's champion. Last year's showpiece match was a decidedly one-sided affair, with Ronnie O-Sullivan claiming a 10-1 victory over Barry Hawkins to win the competition for a record-equalling sixth time, putting him level with Stephen Hendry. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.

11.00 QI XL. Johnny Vegas, Ronni Ancona and Jimmy Carr join regular panellist Alan Davies and host Sandi Toksvig to contemplate the theme "naval navigation" in this extended episode.

11.45 Film: Good. (2008) A literary professor in 1930s Germany finds his work praised by the fast-rising Nazi party, and begins to enjoy the privileges conferred by their acclaim. As his prosperity grows, he becomes increasingly morally compromised, and as the true nature of Nazi ideology becomes clear, he tries to protect his Jewish psychiatrist from the state. Drama, with Viggo Mortensen, Jason Isaacs and Jodie Whittaker.

1.15 Sign Zone: Question Time. Topical debate from Peterborough, chaired by David Dimbleby. (R) **2.15** Holby City. Sacha becomes suspicious about Essie and Raf's relationship, and Fletch fights to save his friend Artem's life when the old gambler returns to the Acute Assessment Unit. (R) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Countrywise: Guide to Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) **11.30** Chopping Block. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Judge Rinder. (R) **1.35** Tipping Point. (R) **2.35** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **3.35** The Voice UK. (R) **5.05** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.15** ITV News; Weather. **5.30** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R)

6.30 Dance Dance Dance. Alesha Dixon and Will Best host the third heat of the dance contest, which finds the contestants challenged to recreate famous routines by Lady Gaga, Michael Jackson and Fred Astaire. Judges Ashley Banjo. Tina Landon and Timor Steffens rate their efforts and decide who will be leaving the show this week.

8.00 Endeavour. Morse is assigned to protect an informant who is undergoing emergency surgery. The case brings back unpleasant memories for the detective, while his colleagues are thrown into disarray when Bright is also rushed to hospital. Morse becomes fixated with a series of mysterious deaths that have occurred on the ward, and tries to find the scientific explanation behind stories of a curse.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R)

11.15 The Cube. Contestants try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks, hoping to win a jackpot of £250,000. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00** Chopping Block. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show: DNA Bombshells. Guests air their differences. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30 Film:** Tooth Fairy. (2010) Family comedy, starring Dwayne Johnson. **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **4.15** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.20** Channel 4 News. **5.50 Film:** The Day After Tomorrow. (2004) A climatologist races across America to rescue his son as freak weather conditions cause devastation around the world. Disaster thriller, starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Dennis Quaid. Edited for language and violence.

8.00 Walking the Americas. Levison Wood travels along a string of volcanoes in Nicaragua as he makes his way to Costa Rica, and climbs to the top of an active volcano referred to as the Mouth of Hell. He also meets fishermen who live on an island in Central America's largest lake, visits a camp for migrants trying to reach the US, and attempts to climb the highest mountain on his route.

9.00 Homeland. New series. Carrie returns to the US with Franny to work as an advocate for Muslim Americans, while Dar and Saul brief President-elect Keane. Claire Danes stars.

10.05 Film: Trainspotting. (1996) A heroin addict makes a series of attempts to kick the habit, but the grind of everyday life and a circle of similarly self-destructive friends keep dragging him back to his old ways. Following a near-fatal overdose, he comes to the realisation that the only way to put his life in order is to rid himself of his friends – which is easier said than done. Danny Boyle's drama based on Irvine Welsh's novel, starring Ewan McGregor, Robert Carlyle and Ewen Bremner.

11.55 The 90s: Ten Years That Changed the World. Kathy Burke narrates this look back at the 1990s revolution in British music, fashion, film, sport, art and media, as told by the people who made it happen. (R)

1.20 How to Lose Weight Well. (R) **2.15** Millionaires' Mansions: Designing Britain's Most Exclusive Homes. (R) **3.10** The Autistic Gardener. (R) **4.05** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.00** Seaside Antics. (R) **7.05** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.15** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.30** Little Princess. (R) **7.40** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.55** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** The Fairly OddParents. (R) **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.20** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.55** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **12.20** Brides Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **1.20 Film:** Kangaroo Jack. (2003) Comedy, starring Jerry O'Connell and Anthony Anderson. **3.00 Film:** George of the Jungle. (1997) **4.45 Film:** Herbie: Fully Loaded. (2005)

6.30 Dads Make You Laugh Out Loud.

7.30 The Adele Story. Documentary charting the remarkable career trajectory of Adele Adkins, the pop and soul singer who rose from humble beginnings in Tottenham to become one of the biggest stars of the modern music industry. Now popular enough to warrant going by her forename only, Adele's interest in music was encouraged by her mother from an early age. Winning a place at the Brit School in Croydon, Adele first shot into the public eye when her friend uploaded a demo to MySpace in 2006, and by the time she graduated, the singer had already secured a record deal. What followed were three hugely successful albums, 19, 21 and 25, each of which surpassed the last in terms of critical acclaim and sales figures. Adele also scored an Oscar in 2013 for her song Skyfall, which featured as the theme of the James Bond film of the same name. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.

10.00 Celebrity Botched Up Bodies.

11.05 Film: Just Go with It. (2011) Romantic comedy, starring Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston.

1.10 SuperCasino. **3.10 Film:** Universal Soldier. (1992) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 David Starkey's Music & Monarchy **8.00** Sword, Musket & Machine Gun: Britain's Armed History **9.00** Titanic's Tragic Twin: The Britannic Disaster **10.00** Hidden Killers of the Post-War Home **11.00** Horizon: What's Wrong with Our Weather? **12.00** Play It Loud: The Story of the Marshall Amp **1.00** Sound of Musicals with Neil Brand **2.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **3.00** Titanic's Tragic Twin: The Britannic Disaster **4.00** Close

ITV2

3.00 Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10 Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **4.45 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **6.55 Film:** The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00 Film:** The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

1.50 Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles **4.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** This Time Next Year **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.35 Film:** Wimbledon (2004) **11.35** FYI Daily **11.40 Film:** Wimbledon (2004) **12.40** A Touch of Frost **2.20** Wycliffe **3.15** May the Best House Win

ITV4

5.10 Film: The Man from the Alamo (1953) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15 Film:** The Man from the Alamo (1953) **6.50** Mr Bean **8.00 Film:** Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15 Film:** Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **10.00 Film:** The Bank Job (2008) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05 Film:** The Bank Job (2008) **12.15 Film:** Road (2014) **1.15** FYI Daily **1.20 Film:** Road (2014) **2.20** Tommy Cooper **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

2.35 The Goldbergs **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Colombiana (2011) **11.05** Tattoo Fixers **12.10** Virtually Famous **1.05** Gogglebox **1.50** The Goldbergs **2.40** Rude Tube

Film4

1.00 Short Circuit (1986) **3.05** The House of Magic (2013) **4.45** Time Bandits (1981) **7.00** The Way Way Back (2013) **9.00** The Grand Budapest Hotel (2014) **11.05** Enemy at the Gates (2001)

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Too Close To Kill, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Two best friends go their separate ways for the first time when one gets into the most revered sorority on campus, but matters soon take a fatal turn when one of them is murdered. Thriller, starring Greer Grammer, Chloe Babcook and Steve Bacic. (2016)

TUESDAY
Stolen Child, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A couple who have tried unsuccessfully to conceive resort to adopting a baby from Eastern Europe. However, their newfound happiness is shattered when they discover the disturbing series of events that brought the child into their lives. Drama, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Corbin Bernsen. (2012)

Insidious, Friday, Channel 4, 12.50am

WEDNESDAY
The Others, Channel 4, 1.30am
A woman awaits the return of her husband from the Second World War while struggling to care for her son and daughter. Both children suffer a violent reaction when exposed to daylight, forcing her to keep much of their isolated home on the island of Jersey shrouded in gloom. When the pair claim to see strangers in the house, their terrified mother begins to suspect that the souls of the dead are stalking the halls. Period supernatural thriller, starring Nicole Kidman. (2001)

THURSDAY
Badge of Betrayal, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman discovers her supposedly dead son is still alive, his demise having been faked by her ex-husband as part of an elaborate plot to destroy her life. However, finding the evidence to prove her story turns out to be a difficult challenge. Thriller, starring Julie Benz and Matthew Kevin Anderson. (2014)

FRIDAY
Insidious, Channel 4, 12.50am
A family experience strange events in their house and become convinced it is haunted. However, after moving on, they find the dark forces have followed them and when their son mysteriously falls into a coma, they must find a way to get rid of the paranormal entities tormenting them. Horror, starring Patrick Wilson and Rose Byrne. (2010)

The stars are out to shine in the capital

It's January, the start of a new year, a time, perhaps, to look back at what happened during the previous 12 months.

That's certainly the case in the showbusiness world.

During the next few weeks, we'll be inundated with awards ceremonies. The Golden Globes have already taken place, Bafta's film event appears on February 12, with the Oscars happen a fortnight later.

But our focus, for now, will be on the National Television Awards (or NTAs, for short). They're a little bit special because they're voted for by the public, ie the audience sat at home watching programmes for pleasure, rather than stuffy critics who are paid for their opinions.

That fact also makes them mean more to the winners too – after all, if the fans have voted for them, then they must be doing something right.

The past 12 months have certainly been very special TV-wise, with lots of highlights to choose from – long gone are the days when viewers were left bemoaning that there was nothing on the box tonight!

The Great British Bake Off proved to be hugely popular, and viewers were fixed to their screens as Candice Brown was crowned the winner. But it was a bittersweet moment as it was revealed that the 2016 run would be the last to appear on the BBC – controversially, it will make its debut on Channel 4 this year, without presenters Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins, and judge Mary Berry, although Paul Hollywood had opted to stick with the show.

Interestingly, the programme (Best Challenge Show), Mel and Sue (TV Presenter), and Mary (TV Judge) are all up for NTAs, but Paul is not…

While Mary faces fierce competition from fellow veteran Len Goodman, who has retired from Strictly Come Dancing, Mel and Sue must beat the mighty Ant and Dec if they're to triumph – and that's no mean feat.

One of the most hotly contested categories will be Drama Performance, where Cillian Murphy (Peaky Blinders), Jenna Colman (Victoria), Sarah Lancashire (Happy Valley) and recent Golden Globe winner Tom Hiddleston (The Night Manager) will vie for the title.

All of their series are also in the running for awards, in either the Drama or Period Drama sections.

Other big names and shows set to feature on the night are Cold Feet, Casualty, Coronation Street, David Walliams, Simon Cowell and Game of Thrones.

Dermot O'Leary will host the event live from London's O2 arena, while Queen of the Jungle Scarlett Moffatt takes charge of the ceremony's social media feeds, delivering all the latest backstage gossip in the process.

"I've never been to an awards ceremony before," says Scarlett. "I can't believe the first one I'm attending is as part of the actual NTA team working alongside Dermot, the master of live TV; it's going to be such an amazing experience.

"To top it off, my Dad gets to be my plus one and walk me down my first ever red carpet. What more can a girl ask for?"

The National Television Awards 2017, Wednesday, ITV, 7.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Winterwatch 2017
BBC2, 8pm
New series. Chris Packham, Michaela Strachan and Martin Hughes-Games return to RSPB Arne in Dorset as they present from their base on Poole Harbour, which is officially the most biodiverse region in the UK, with more species of animals and plants within 10 miles of Wareham than anywhere else in the country. Gillian Burke examines military pillboxes in Studland to explore the lives of hibernating butterflies in winter, while Martin tries to understand the harbour's appeal for waders, particularly avocets, and has an incredible revelation.

TUESDAY
Brainwashing Stacey
BBC1, 10.45pm
Stacey Dooley travels to southern California to meet Jeff White, an anti-abortion campaigner who runs a group entitled Survivors of the Abortion Holocaust. He's been arrested more than 100 times for leading public protests against pregnancy terminations, and runs so-called Survivors Pro-Life Training Camps, in which children from all over America are invited to take part in summer camps which, according to its website, aims to ëeducate and equip young activitists who are willing to be used by God to defend those unjustly sentenced to death'. Dooley joins some of the youngsters on field trips which seem to involve disrupting what goes on at abortion clinics, and hears why they feel that White's message is one that should be heard and heeded.

WEDNESDAY
Who Do You Think You Are?
BBC1, 8pm
As the 'last of the McKellen's', the award-winning actor and civil rights champion Sir Ian McKellen admits to a degree of melancholy as delves into his family history, but the results pay off greatly. On his journey back through his family history, he discovers one of his ancestors was a Victorian political activist, and another relative was also linked to the theatre. Finally, Ian learns that previous generations of his family have a surprising link to an ancient druidical landmark in the Lake District.

Hospital
BBC2, 9pm
The spotlight moves to the neurological ward, where crane driver Phil is one of the most urgent cases. After collapsing at work he is becoming increasingly paralysed, and Kevin O'Neill, one of the country's leading brain surgeons, wants to remove the fast-growing brain tumour causing Phil's condition. It's a life-threatening operation, and time is of the essence – but securing theatre time in a hospital at bursting point proves to be far from simple. But waiting times could be a thing of the past if revolutionary new treatments that don't involve invasive brain surgery prove to be successful. Consultant neurologist Dr Peter Bain is at the forefront of this work, and talks viewers through how using MRI-focussed ultrasound waves could replace knives and drills.

Brainwashing Stacey, Tuesday, BBC1, 10.45pm

THURSDAY
Spy in the Wild
BBC1, 8pm
The undercover cameras reveal how animals rely upon each other for a range of activities. Arctic wolves group together to survive in one of the harshest landscapes on earth, a band of hungry mongoose groom warthogs for tasty morsels – before turning their attention to Spy Warthog – and fish help clean hippos' bodies, as well as providing a unique dental service. Meanwhile, crocodiles and dikkop birds take part in a mutual neighbourhood watch against hungry prowling monitor lizards, and Spy Rattlesnake captures how prairie dogs and burrowing owls use their language skills to tell the rest of their community of approaching danger.

FRIDAY
Eurovision: You Decide
BBC2, 7.30pm
It's now been 20 years since the UK won the Eurovision Song Contest – our last victors were Katrina and the Waves back in 1997 with Love Shine a Light. So that makes it all the more important that we find the right song to represent us this year, and the BBC are turning to the public to help with the search. Hosted by self-confessed Eurovision fan Mel Giedroyc from the Hammersmith Apollo, this live shows sees six short-listed acts taking to the stage in the hopes of impressing the viewers and a jury of music professionals. The panel will offer feedback on the songs – and some suggestions as to how they might be staged – before their scores are combined with the public vote to determine who will be flying the flag for the UK in Ukraine this year.

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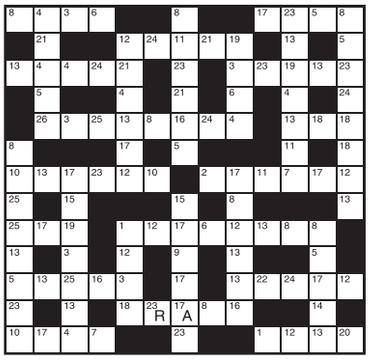
BRAIN GYM No.412

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17 A
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23 R
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
S	X	H	C	Q	O	P	I	F	J	V	W	Y
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
M	E	D	Z	R	A	B	G	K	L	N	T	U

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

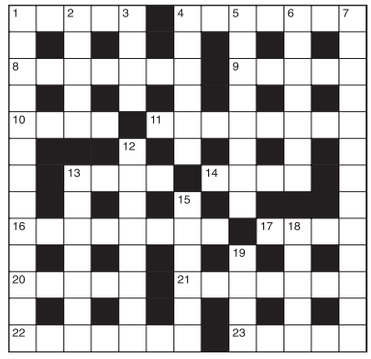
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Everybody out of bed: this is the end! (3,2)
4. Cut nail for madman (7)
8. Take the lead in behaviour (7)
9. He has a suit, of course (5)
10. The majority of doctors get treatment first (4)
11. Charm by getting on stage? (8)
13. Plunge into a drinking-den (4)
14. At this point in the rehearsal (4)
16. Current minister is absolutely right (8)
17. Frank has nothing to writer (4)
20. I break up game involving idol (5)
21. Compunction about code (7)
22. Try a leg in a big way (7)
23. Entertain, as doctors do (5)

Down

1. Obliging with lodgings, perhaps (13)
2. Rows involve falsehoods about Norman, initially (5)
3. Register pique when dupes get dues this way (4)
4. The French temporary home is hidden (6)
5. Stagger from all quarters to see topical film (4-4)
6. Counter beat (7)
7. Complementary journalist (13)
12. Get too many degrees for comfort? (8)
13. Aver led race (7)
15. Violent tale about a thousand (6)
18. Clearing out of undesirables from group urgently needed (5)
19. Give out time is up (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Force back (5)
4. Quell (7)
8. Scheme (7)
9. Subject (5)
10. Alleviate (4)
11. Reduce (8)
13. Act (4)
14. Profit (4)
16. Harshness (8)
17. Labyrinth (4)
20. Lighter (5)
21. Tedious (7)
22. Factor (7)
23. Urge (5)

Down

1. Blameworthy (13)
2. Devout (5)
3. Dregs (4)
4. Preferably (6)
5. Fatherly (8)
6. Interpret (7)
7. Extreme reticence (13)
12. Respite (8)
13. Separate (7)
15. Rigorous (6)
18. Without help (5)
19. Neglect (4)

Sudoku

1	6						4	
	9		6		5			1
		5			8			7
	2	7					5	
5			4		2			9
	4		7			8		2
4			8			7		
6		1			3		2	
	7		5				3	8

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	7	9	2	6	8	1	4	3
4	2	6	9	3	1	5	7	8
8	3	1	4	5	7	9	6	2
6	4	5	1	7	3	2	8	9
9	8	7	5	2	6	4	3	1
3	1	2	8	9	4	7	5	6
7	5	3	6	1	2	8	9	4
2	6	8	7	4	9	3	1	5
1	9	4	3	8	5	6	2	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 3 Spaghetti; 8 Ties; 9 Sovereign; 10 Roller; 11 Steed; 14 Lisle; 15 Note; 16 Remit; 18 Neil; 20 Rents; 21 Cites; 24 Marian; 25 Unmarried; 26 Shun; 27 Plaything. Down: 1 Startling; 2 Realistic; 4 Poor; 5 Guest; 6 Eleven; 7 Tags; 9 Sewer; 11 Samos; 12 Downright; 13 Reasoning; 17 Tread; 19 Litany; 22 Earth; 23 Anil; 24 Mean. QUICK - Across: 3 Pseudonym; 8 Item; 9 Destitute; 10 Lessen; 11 Tenet; 14 Nurse; 15 True; 16 Rumba; 18 Sold; 20 Fount; 21 Yield; 24 Propel; 25 Reconcile; 26 Dawn; 27 Wrangling. Down: 1 Violinist; 2 Leisurely; 4 Seen; 5 Untie; 6 Outset; 7 Yeti; 9 Defer; 11 Timid; 12 Triumphal; 13 Pestilent; 17 Afire; 19 Disown; 22 Local; 23 Gear; 24 Plan.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. What nationality was the painter Paul Klee?
2. In which war were the Battles of Bull Run fought?
3. Who won the 1994 Booker Prize?
4. With which film did Marlene Dietrich win world fame?
5. Whose wife was Helen of Troy?
6. Of which Canadian province is Winnipeg the capital?
7. In snooker, how many points is the brown ball worth?
8. Which element has the symbol Na?
9. What is a pond-skater?
10. Which calendar includes the months Messidor and Thermidor?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Mallord; 2 Quango; 3 Jack Lemmon; 4 Trefoil; 5 Edward II; 6 1971; 7 Land of Nod; 8 Canada; 9 Dundee; 10 Orchids.

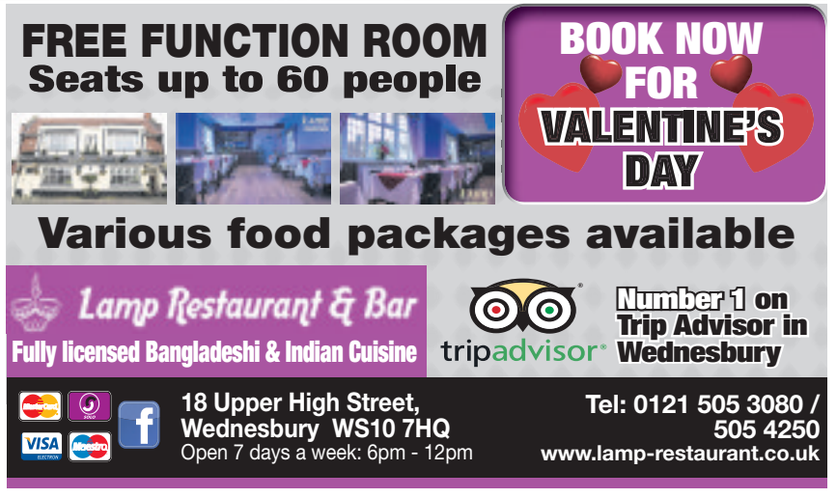
Niner: SPHERICAL

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

152785 gives a golf club,
34669 gives a second golf club,
297859833 gives an American golf course.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, January 19, 2017

Golden globes – porcini mushroom arancini with lovage pesto

Warm and welcoming interior

Sound as a bell – The Bell in Belbroughton

As good as gold – melting golden chocolate bomb

Fantastic food sound as a Bell

Lisa Williams tucks in

MONDAY. Quite possibly the worst day of the week. Back to work when you've just enjoyed a lovely, lazy weekend.

A harsh dose of reality after two days bliss. But on a cheeky day off, while the rest of the country began their nine-to-five, it was nice to know a leisurely lunch was imminent.

It seemed like a good idea to revisit a pub that was a four-star find 18 months ago and had not long reopened after a revamp.

It was a good decision and standards remain high, another four stars, and there would've been an extra half had there not been a salmon and spinach debacle – to be revealed in due course.

So on a rainy Monday we ventured to the warm and welcoming pub. Gone were the countrified and formal furnishings replaced with a fancy and modern eclectic mix of looks. Bright velvet seats were coupled with animal prints and plain bold colours. Metal lantern lights and huge light shades hung above our heads.

Our waitress, Amy, was bright and bubbly and very helpful. The menu has a great deal of choice which should satisfy the fussiest of eaters. It also has a fair few imaginative dishes.

Stand-out options include something that's all the rage at the moment – a Wagyu burger; there's also a fisherman's platter starter including Sloe gin smoked salmon with salmon caviar and crayfish cocktail in bloody Mary ketchup.

And for veggies there's a roasted winter vegetable tart stuffed with butternut squash, beetroot and Cropwell Bishop custard with a Stilton and walnut crumb; and also a buttermilk Southern Fried chicken stuffed with 'nduja sausage, with sweet potato fries, apple salad and preserved lemon aioli.

There are plenty of other simpler options too, sandwiches if you fancy a lighter bite, pizzas, pasta, salads and loads of meat and fish dishes.

We decided to go all out and have three courses. My other half went for the deep-fried Somerset Brie in panko breadcrumbs with apricot and cumin chutney and I chose the Porcini Mushroom Arancini with lovage pesto.

My three golden orbs of arancini were delightful. The perfect crunch gave way to a heady mix of earthy mushrooms, salty and sticky mozzarella and al dente rice.

The Somerset Brie was a gooey splendour with stretchy strings of cheese. For mains he went for hearty man food, a steak, ale and Portobello mushroom pie with mashed potato, heritage carrots and seasonal greens.

Delicious

For me a fish dish from the specials menu, oven-baked salmon on a bed of tomato and garlic linguine with wilted spinach. A lovely shortcrust pastry pie appeared with a good helping of mashed potato and veg.

My salmon looked delicious with a gorgeously crispy skin nut immediately I noticed the absence of the wilted spinach. I cut into the salmon and began to eat. There was a bone and then another. The fish was slightly slimy and when I poked in my fork further I could see it wasn't cooked.

Amy apologised profusely and with no fuss she took away both meals. After a little wait they were returned to us. My salmon was back with spinach and cooked perfectly. The flavour of the tomato and the garlic in the linguine, which was cooked as pasta should be, was subtle but fresh and worked well with the fish.

The way the situation was handled and the quality of the fresh meals more than made up for the initial disappointment.

The pie was a success too, with the pastry getting top marks.

Despite feeling quite full we weren't leaving without sampling dessert. I wanted something lighter as I didn't want to end up feeling stuffed so went for the '200 calories or less' option.

This was strawberries and frozen natural yoghurt with honey ripple and rhubarb and rose flavour curd. It sounded refreshing and also the curd a little intriguing.

He went for something chocolatey, the melting golden chocolate bomb with caramel ice cream, chocolate popping candy and hot Devon cream toffee sauce.

We left with great big grins on our faces, full bellies and made a promise to return as soon as we possibly could!

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Your Chronicle in association with Riviera Travel

POMPEII, CAPRI & THE BAY OF NAPLES

Selected departures from April to October 2017

The Sorrento peninsula and the Bay of Naples is simply one of the most beautiful corners of Europe, attracting visitors for centuries in search of its outstanding scenery, tranquillity and some of the most wondrous 'sights' from throughout history. Add the excellent food and wine, plus the Italians themselves with their legendary love of life, and you have all the ingredients for a wonderful tour.

Price includes:

- Return flights to Naples from a selection of regional airports
- Seven nights in a choice of three, four, four-star superior and five-star accommodation in Sorrento with breakfast and dinner*
- Walking tour of Sorrento, one of Italy's most charming towns
- Cruise to the stunning island of Capri home to three Roman Emperors, DH Lawrence and Graham Greene
- Guided tour of the Roman town of Herculaneum
- Tour of the Naples Archaeological Museum, displaying some of the ancient world's finest exhibits
- Guided tour of astonishingly preserved Pompeii, a city frozen in time
- Tour of the astonishing Amalfi coast – one of the world's most beautiful coastlines
- Visit to charming, hill-top Ravello with its incredible panoramic views and the setting for Wagner's opera Parsifal
- Services of our experienced tour manager

LAKE GARDA, VENICE & VERONA

Selected departures from April to October 2017

This tour is a wonderful blend of some of the finest sights in northern Italy. Firstly Lake Garda, where waves lap gently on the shingle shoreline, with its background of the snow-capped Dolomite mountains; then Venice, a unique city full of cultural delights such as the Doge's Palace, St. Mark's Basilica and the Grand Canal; lastly, Verona, one of the most romantic cities you will ever find and so appropriate as the setting for Romeo and Juliet.

Price includes:

- Return flights to Naples from a selection of regional airports
- Seven nights in a choice of three to four-star superior accommodation, with breakfast and dinner
- Tour of beautiful Lake Garda, Italy's largest lake spectacularly surrounded by mountains and charming lakeside villages
- Guided sightseeing tour of medieval Verona, the city of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, plus a wealth of Roman and Renaissance sites
- Tour of the Dolomites with some of the world's finest alpine scenery
- Guided sightseeing tour of Venice
- Services of our experienced tour manager
- ***NEW:*** Select a 'classic' or 'undiscovered' tour of Venice and Verona

Holidays organised by and subject to the booking conditions of Riviera Travel, New Manor, 328 Wetmore Road, Burton On Trent, Staffordshire DE14 1SP and are offered subject to availability. ABTA V4744 ATOL 3430 protected. Per person prices based on two sharing a twin room. Single rooms and optional insurance available at a supplement. Images used in conjunction with Riviera Travel. Additional entrance costs may apply. Price correct as of 12-1-17. *Hotel Mediterraneo is breakfast only.

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ABTA ABTA No. V4744

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Three-bedroomed terraced home is much improved

In a pleasant position within a popular neighbourhood, 4 Alexander Road, Smethwick is ideally positioned for Warley Woods and commuting.

It is for sale through Humberstones Homes at £145,000.

Having gas radiator heating and majority double glazing its accommodation briefly comprises on the ground floor an entrance vestibule, a delightful lounge, a fitted breakfast kitchen (with an integrated oven/hob), and a downstairs WC.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom. Outside is a pleasant rear garden.

In more detail the entrance vestibule has stairs off to the first floor. The lounge has a front facing bay window and a wall mounted electric fire.

The fitted breakfast kitchen has a range of base and wall mounted units, rolled top work surface areas, a single drainer sink with a mixer tap, an integral oven, a four-ring gas hob and cooker hood above, plumbing for an automatic washing machine, a breakfast bar, complementary tiling to the walls, a door to the rear vestibule and a further door to a useful walk-in store.

The rear vestibule has a door to the rear garden and a door to the downstairs WC with wall tiling.

Upstairs the landing has a pull down ladder to the loft and doors off to all the first floor accommodation. Bedroom one overlooks the front, bedroom two overlooks the rear and bedroom three is L-shaped, has a built-in storage cupboard and a window to the front. The family bathroom has a suite comprising a bath with a shower fitting over, pedestal wash hand basin, a WC and tiling to the walls.

Outside is a front garden and a pleasant rear garden with a patio, lawn area and access to a shared side entrance.

Humberstones Homes deals with all types of residential property, from apartments to larger detached homes. Their branches are well placed to serve the residents within the local community, as well as a wider geographic area.

KEY FEATURES

- Near Warley Woods
- Ideal for commuting
- Well presented
- Improved
- 3 bedroomed terrace

SMETHWICK **£145,000**

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Humberstones Homes
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GREAT BRIDGE

Wordsworth Close, Tipton, DY4
£59,995

Modern Purpose Built Ground Floor Flat having the benefit of no upward chain. Well Presented accommodation, ideal for first time buyer or buy to let investment. 2 Bedrooms

Horseley Heath, Tipton, DY4
£179,950

Lovely Modern 3 Storey TOWN HOUSE offering SPACIOUS FAMILY ACCOMMODATION. Having the benefit of upvc Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating and Large family Accommodatio. 4 Bedrooms

Addenbrook Way, Tipton, DY4
£224,000

Modern Detached Family Home Situated on one of the Best Developments In The Area. Having the benefit of gas central heating and excellent accommodation. 4 Bedrooms

Brookfield Way, Tipton, DY4
£154,950

Modern DETACHED Which Has Been Made Considerably Bigger with LOFT CONVERSION and GARAGE CONVERSION. Having the benefit of upvc Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating. 4 Bedrooms

Churchill Close, Tividale, Oldbury, B69
£159,950

Excellent Size Semi Detached Family Home. Offering Superbly Presented accommodation and having the benefit of upvc double glazing, gas central heating and good location. 3 Bedrooms

Thunderbolt Way, Tipton, DY4
£159,950

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED: PLEASE CALL FOR A FREE VALUATION ON 0121 522 3733.

Glebefields Road, Tipton, DY4
£133,000

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED: PLEASE CALL FOR A FREE VALUATION ON 0121 522 3733.

Bankfield Road, Tipton, DY4
£144,950

Traditional Semi Detached Situated In One Of The Most Sought After Locations. Having upvc double glazing, gas central heating, NO UPWARD CHAIN and superbly presented accommodation. 3 Bedrooms

Bankfield Road, Tipton, DY4
£150,000

Traditional Semi Detached - Upvc Double Glazing - Gas Central Heating - NO UPWARD CHAIN - Sought After Location - 3 Bedrooms

William Kerr Road, Tipton, DY4
£125,000

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED: PLEASE CALL FOR A FREE VALUATION ON 0121 522 3733.

Anchor Drive, Tipton, DY4
£149,950

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED: PLEASE CALL FOR A FREE VALUATION ON 0121 522 3733.

Harper Grove, Tipton, DY4
£139,950

□p>□b>SUMMARY□/b>Good Size Family Home. Modern 2.5 Storey Semi Detached Town House offering upvc double glazing, gas central heating & no upward chain. Reception hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge,

York Close, Tipton, DY4
£139,950

Lovely DETACHED Family Home Situated In A Most SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION. Having the benefit of upvc double glazing, gas central heating, GARAGE CONVERSION and NO UPWARD CHAIN. 3 Bedrooms

Hopton Close, Tipton, DY4
£154,950

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED: PLEASE CALL FOR A FREE VALUATION ON 0121 522 3733.

Elizabeth Walk, Tipton, DY4
£169,950

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED: PLEASE CALL FOR A FREE VALUATION ON 0121 522 3733.

Elizabeth Walk, Tipton, DY4
£59,950

PURPOSE BUILT GROUND FLOOR Flat Situated In a most SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION. Ideal for first time buyer or buy to let investment. 1 Bedroom

Wake Green Road, Tipton, DY4
£45,000

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY: Property For Sale with Current Tenant on a 6 Month Agreement £350 per month. Purpose Built First Floor Flat situated in a most sought after location

Avern Close, Tipton, DY4
£97,500

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED: PLEASE CALL FOR A FREE VALUATION ON 0121 522 3733.

Brookfield Way, Tipton, DY4
£170,000

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED: PLEASE CALL FOR A FREE VALUATION ON 0121 522 3733.

Baker Street, Tipton, DY4
£110,000

Modern Mid Terrace located in a SOUGHT AFTER DEVELOPMENT offering upvc double glazing and gas central heating. 2 Bedrooms

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73 Great Bridge, Tipton DY4 7HF

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Paul Dubberley

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WEDNESBURY

Barlow Road, Wednesbury, WS10
£85,000

<p>SUMMARYSpacious 3 bed semi-detached house offering NO CHAIN! The property benefits from off road parking, through lounge/ diner, kitchen, bathroom, WC and front and rear gardens. VIEWING

Woden Road East, Wednesbury, WS10
£90,000

<p>SUMMARYOFFERED TO THE MARKET WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN AND IN NEED OF MODERNISATION THROUGHOUT IS THIS SEMI DETACHED HOME SITUATED WITHIN A POPULAR RESIDENTIAL

Birmingham Street, Wednesbury, WS10
£180,000

<p>SUMMARYVIEWING HIGHLY ADVISED TO FULLY APPRECIATE THIS WONDERFULLY MAINTAINED TRADITIONAL STYLE DETACHED FAMILY HOME OFFERED TO THE MARKET WITH NO

St Lukes Road, Wednesbury, WS10
£69,950

<p>SUMMARYFantastic 1 bedroom ground floor apartment with its own entrance porch offers modern decor, great transport links and conveniently close to all local shops and schools.DESCRIPTION

Heathfield Lane West, Wednesbury, WS10
£130,000

<p>SUMMARYEXTENDED & AVAILABLE WITH NO CHAIN - a three bedroom semi detached residence with accommodation further featuing two reception rooms, kitchen with breakfast area and first floor

Shaftesbury Road, Wednesbury, WS10
£135,000

<p>SUMMARYTRADITIONAL EXTENDED PROPERTY WITH NO CHAIN - A spacious semi detached home set in a sought after residential location with accommodation featuring three bedrooms, two reception

Cope Street, Wednesbury, WS10
£95,000

<p>SUMMARYAN ATTRACTIVE DOUBLE FRONTED TERRACE RESIDENCE comprising three bedrooms, two reception rooms, first floor bathroom, kitchen & enclosed rear garden. VIEWING IS ADVISED TO

Burrs Drive, Wednesbury, WS10
£85,000

<p>SUMMARYSMART & CONTEMPORARY LIVING - An upper floor modern apartment offering accommodation featuring two bedrooms, living space to include open plan lounge & dining area,

Myvod Road, Wednesbury, WS10
£129,950

<p>SUMMARYWELL PRESENTED & CHAIN FREE - A smart semi detached residence featuring three bedrooms, lounge, contemporary style kitchen with dining space & first floor bathroom.

Manorhouse Close, Walsall, WS1
£140,000

<p>SUMMARYAN ATTRACTIVE CONTEMPORARY STYLE 3 BED MID TOWN HOUSE WITH ACCOMMODATION NEATLY ARRANGED OVER THREE FLOORS WHILST BENEFITING FROM NO

Charlemont Crescent, West Bromwich, B71
£210,000

A three bedroom traditional style semi-detached house briefly comprising of an enatrance hallway, two reception rooms, extended kitchen, upstairs family bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing

Church Vale, West Bromwich, B71
£185,000

A beautifully designed, traditional 3 bed property briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, two reception rooms, kitchen, upstairs family bathroom, gas central heating,UPVC double glazing, off road parking

Hampshire Road, West Bromwich, B71
£150,000

A three bedroom semi detached property comprising; entrance hallway, two reception rooms, a ground floor bedroom with en-suite bathroom, kitchen, enclosed side access, upstairs wet room, central heating

The Broadway, West Bromwich, B71
£139,950

A three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, two reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory, upstairs family bathroom, central heating, double glazing

Ash Drive, West Bromwich, B71
£130,000

A three bedroom traditional style semi detached house briefly comprising of a porch, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, upstairs family bathroom, gas central heating (where specified), UPVC double glaing (where specified)

Summerlee Road, Birmingham, B24
£130,000

A three bedroom semi detached briefly comprising of a porch, lounge, kitchen, hallway, downstairs bathroom, central heating (where specified), double glazing (where specified)

Harvills Hawthorn, West Bromwich, B70
£120,000

A three bedroom mid terraced house briefly comprising of a shared porch, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, kitchen and a downstairs bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gardens to front & rear, garage

Hill Top
£115,000

A 2 bedroom end terrace property having parking for 2 vehicles, an entrance porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, galley kitchen, 2 bedrooms and a large family bathroom, an enclosed garden to the rear.

Crankhall Lane
£95,000

A well presented two bedroom first floor apartment comprising; open plan lounge and kitchen, family bathroom, an en-suite shower room, electric radiators,double glazing, and an allocated parking space

Vernon Road, OLDBURY, B68
£95,000

A two bedroom traditional style mid terraced property briefly comprising of a through lounge, inner hallway, kitchen and an upstairs family bathroom.

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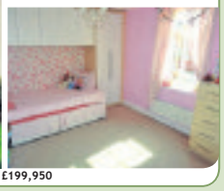
Bloomfield Road,Tipton
- ●●Goodchilds●●●
- End Terraced
- Four Bedrooms
- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazed
- Gas Central Heating



Offers in the region of £199,950

Church Hill,Wednesbury
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Living Room
- Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

Offers in the Region Of £155,000

King Street,Wednesbury
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Terraced
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs W.C
- Kitchen/Diner

Offers in the region of

Southgate Road,Birmingham
- Attention investors!
- In need of refurbishment
- Extended property
- Three bedrooms
- Off road parking
- Double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Close to local amenities

Offers In The Region Of £140,000

Primary close,Wolverhampton
- 10 year NHBC warranty
- Allocated parking space
- Two bedrooms
- Downstairs WC/cloakroom
- Private rear garden
- White sanitaryware with chrome finish taps
- Perfect for first time buyers

From £134,995

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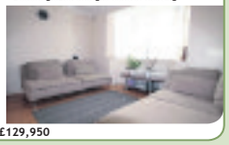
Stanbury Avenue,Wednesbury
- End terraced property
- Three spacious bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Family bathroom
- Downstairs WC
- Plentiful storage space
- Garage
- Double glazed and gas central heating



Offers in the region £129,950

Coles Lane,West Bromwich
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Two Bedroom
- Semi Detached
- Living room
- Downstairs Shower Room
- Extended kitchen/diner

Offers In The Region

Houliston Close,Wednesbury
- Immaculately presented
- Cul de sac location
- Brilliant access to M6
- Close to local amenities
- Two bedrooms
- Enclosed rear garden

Offers In The Region

Moor Street,Wednesbury
- Ideal for any first time buyer or investor
- New UPVC double glazing
- Decked area to rear garden
- Quiet location
- Close to local amenities
- Perfect for access to Birmingham
- Downstairs WC
- Generous storage space

Offers In The Region Of £100,000

Brookside,Wednesbury
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Second Floor Apartment
- Entrance Hallway
- Kitchen
- Living Room
- Family Bathroom
- Master Bedroom
- Second Bedroom

Offers in the region of £83,950

Blenheim Drive,Wednesbury
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Upper Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Double Glazed
- Allocated Parking
- Must View

Offers in the region of £85,000

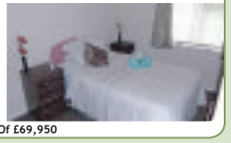
Lunt Road,Bilston
- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- In Need Of Modernisation
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Easy Access to M6

Offers In The Region Of £79,950

Princess Grove,West Bromwich
- Upper Floor Maisonete
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Family Bathroom
- Two Bedrooms
- Living Room
- Must View

Offers In The Region Of £80,000

St. Lukes Road,Wednesbury
- Modern Apartment
- One Double Bedroom
- Re-Styled Kitchen
- Re-Styled Shower Room
- Lounge/Diner
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Communal Parking



Offers In The Region Of £69,950

Churchfield Avenue,Tipton
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Three Bedrooms
- Living Room
- Bathroom
- Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating

Offers in the Excess

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Spring Head,Wednesbury,
- One Bedroom upper Floor Flat
- Electric Heating
- Fitted Kitchen
- One Months Deposit
- 50% Off Process Fees
- Secure Entrance
- Allocated Parking
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £300

Tame Crossing,Wednesbury
- First Floor Flat
- Fitted Kitchen
- Living Room
- Two bedrooms
- Fitted Wardrobe
- Family Bathroom

Monthly Rental £495

Coronation Road,Tipton
- Newly Refurbished
- Three Bedroom semi detached
- Off road parking
- Double Glazing
- Gas central heating
- Downstairs toilet

Monthly Rental £650

Dick Sheppard Avenue,Tipton
- Four Bedroom New build property
- Gas central heating
- Double Glazing
- Large rear garden
- Driveway
- Fitted Kitchen

Monthly Rental £725

Holyhead Road,Wednesbury
- Ground Floor One Bedroom Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Allocated Parking
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Good transport links
- New build development
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Upper High Street,West Midlands
- One Bedroom Flat
- Double Glazing
- Gas central Heating
- Fitted Bathroom
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fitted Wardrobes
- Good Transport Links
- Dhss Accepted with guarantor

Monthly Rental of £350

NEW LANDLORDS, INSTRUCT GOODCHILDS TO LET YOUR PROPERTY AND YOU WILL RECEIVE 3 MONTHS COMMISSION FREE!

Darlaston road,Wednesbury
- Newly refurbished
- Double Glazing
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fitted Bathroom
- Dhss considered
- ?90 per person application fee
- ?65 per property administration fee
- Deposit on application

Monthly Rental of £495

Hurstcroft Road,Birmingham
- Hallway
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Recently Decorated
- Available immediately
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental £425

Tilley Street,Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms Detached
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden
- DHSS ACCEPTED
- Sorry No Pets
- Family Bathroom

Monthly Rental £495

Elizabeth Walk,Tipton
- AVAILABLE NOW!
- Ground floor two bedroom flat
- Recently Refurbished
- Doulble Glazing
- Gas central heating
- New fitted kitchen
- New fitted Bathroom
-

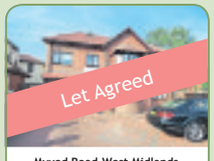
Monthly Rental £450

Crankhall Lane,Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Mid Terraced House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Atic Room
- Rear Garden
- Family bathroom
-
-

Monthly Rental £550

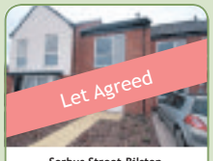
Franchise Street,West Midlands
- Two Bedroom Terraced house
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fitted Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Good transport links
- Dhss applicants are considered

Monthly Rental £475



Myvod Road,West Midlands
- One Bedroom Ground floor apartment
- Fitted kitchen
- Fitted Bathroom
- Parking to the front and rear of the property
- Sorry No dhss

Monthly Rental £450

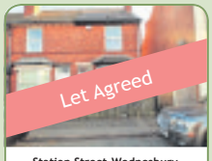


Sorbus Street,Bilston
- Two Bedroom Town House
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with En-suite
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental £575

Aladdins Court,Darlaston
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- New Build First Floor
- Communal Entrance/Stairs
- Hallway
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Resevation Fee - 250.00

Monthly Rental £450



Station Street,Wednesbury
- Two Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Front Garden and Rear Gardens
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- DHSS CONSIDERED

Monthly Rental £425

High Street,Wednesbury
- Resevation Fee - 250.00
- Processing Fee - 90.00 PP
- Admin Fee - 65.00
- Deposit Needed
- EPC - D
-

Monthly Rental £495

Vicarage Road,Wednesbury
- Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen / Diner
- Modern Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms
- Modern Bathrooms

Monthly Rental £550

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Ideal three-bed home is in a prime location

BEARWOOD
£305,000

Occupying a prime Bearwood position on Lightwoods Hill, this three-bedroomed semi-detached house is an ideal family home for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £305,000 with no chain.

It has an entrance porch, an entrance hall, two reception rooms, a conservatory, kitchen, office space, a WC, garage, three bedrooms and a bathroom and loft space.

This traditional property is a most sought after style is ideally situated within the heart of Bearwood, directly opposite Lightwoods Park and close to the Bearwood High Street. Bearwood is home to local shopping, bus services into Birmingham City Centre, access to several Leisure Centres and Warley Woods and Golf Course.

Call Robert Oulsnam on 0121 429 9986.

Two-bedroom home with added scope to extend

OLDBURY
£179,950 <<<

This extended two-bedroomed semi-detached house in Pryor Road, Road has garage foundations sufficient for a two storey extension to be created.

It is for sale through Tom Giles at £179,950 with no chain.

With double glazing and gas central heating, it has a porch, entrance hall and under-stairs storage cupboard, a front sitting room, rear sitting room and dining area, a kitchen, utility/conservatory, shower room, two bedrooms, dressing room and a bathroom, garage and gardens with a summer house and a side verandah.

The home is in need of general updating but offering good sized family accommodation with potential to extend, subject to permissions.

Contact Tom Giles & Co on 0121 552 6171 or visit www.tomgilesandco.co.uk

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Woodbury Road, Halesowen
Well Presented Spacious Modern Style Property, Most Popular Residential Halesowen Location, Easy Access To Good Local Schools & Local Amenities, Easy Access To M5/M6 Motorway Networks, Viewing Highly Recommended
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Through Lounge/Dining Area
- Re-Fitted Kitchen, Large Breakfast Room
- Utility Area, Downstairs Shower Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom With Shower
- Gardens, Garage & Driveway

Offers In The Region Of £229,950

Warley Hall Road, Oldbury
Well Presented Traditional Style Three Bedroomed Semi, Situated Within This Most Popular Residential Location, Easy Access To Local Amenities, Good Local Schools, Walking Distance To Golf Course & Warley Woods. EPC - F
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Through Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen, Double Glazed Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Gardens, Blocked Paved Driveway
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

Offers In The Region Of £189,950

Bleakhouse Road, Oldbury
Traditional Style Three Bedroomed Extended Property, Most Popular Residential Location, Walking Distance To Good Local Schools & Local Amenities, Easy Access To M5/M6 Motorway Networks. EPC - D
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Through Lounge/Dining Area
- Extended Fitted Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- Viewing Highly Recommended

Offers In The Region Of £179,950

Pound Road, Oldbury
Most Charming Refurbished Two Bedroomed Semi Detached Bungalow, Popular Residential Development, Easy Access To Local Amenities & Good Local Schools. Viewing Highly Recommended. EPC - D
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Lounge, Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Attractive Gardens
- Brick Garage, Off Road Parking
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

Offers In The Region Of £164,950

Barrs Street, Oldbury
Spacious Traditional Style Terrace, Easy Access To Local M5/M6Motorway Networks, In Need Of Modest Update, However Offering Excellent Potential. NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC - E
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Lounge, Fitted Dining Kitchen
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- Ideal First Time Purchase OR Investment Opportunity

Offers In The Region Of £94,950

Red Lion Close, Tividale
Well Presented Spacious One Bedroomed Ground Floor Flat, Popular Residential Development, Easy Access To M5/M6 Motorway Networks, NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC - F
- Double Glazing
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Communal Gardens & Garage En-Bloc
- Ideal Investment Opportunity
- Ideal First Time Purchase

Offers In The Region Of £69,950

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NEW

BEARWOOD ROAD, SMETHWICK

HMO INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY or LARGE family home. 8 DOUBLE bedrooms & 2 SINGLE bedrooms in total. 3 reception rooms with 15ft modern breakfast kitchen. Having 4 REFITTED shower rooms. Garage & parking. Gas central heating fitted. LARGE rear garden. NEW roof. UPVC DG. EPC rating: E

£375,000

SOLD STC

DEVON ROAD, WARLEY WOODS

Traditional & SPACIOUS family home with 3 DOUBLE bedrooms & SOUTH facing PRIVATE rear garden with OUTBUILDING. Having 2 LARGE reception rooms & 12ft kitchen diner. 3 bedrooms & family bathroom on 1st floor. 23ft GARAGE & driveway to front. MUST BE VIEWED - close to bus routes into Birmingham. EPC rating: E

BEARWOOD **£269,950**

NEW

WILLIAM SAVAGE WAY, SMETHWICK

MODERN, 3 DOUBLE bed FAMILY home with EN-SUITE shower room to BOTH beds 1 and 2, SPACIOUS 17ft through lounge, SUPERB 14ft FITTED dining kitchen, ADDITIONAL 17ft Sitting room/POTENTIAL bed 4, House bathroom, GARAGE. dg & gch. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC C.

£235,000

NEW

OAK ROAD, OLDBURY

EXTENDED family home in SOUGHT AFTER road. IN NEED OF UPDATING. Having TWO reception rooms, breakdast/dining kitchen & D/S wet room (disabled friendly). 4 beds & bathroom. Rear garden with SOUTHERLY aspect. DRIVEWAY & garage to front. GCH & (majority) UPVC DBG. EPC rating: TBC

£225,000

NEW

MANSION CRESCENT, SMETHWICK

UNFURNISHED - AVAILABLE NOW - Well presented & spacious home with DRIVEWAY. 15ft lounge & 16ft kitchen diner. D/S WC. 3 bedrooms & bathroom with white suite. Gardens to rear. UPVC DG & GCH. NO DSS, NO PETS, NO SMOKERS. EPC Rating: C - Subject to non refundable admin fees of £125 per tenant.

£650 PCM

NEW

HAYWHARF ROAD, BRIERLEY HILL

UNFURNISHED - AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY - NEWLY REFURBISHED Semi detached home, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility room, 3 bedrooms & REFITTED Bathroom, enclosed rear garden GCH, UPVC DBG, NO DSS, NO PETS, NO SMOKERS. EPC Rating: E - Subject to non refundable admin fee of £125 per tenant.

£575 PCM

MUST BE VIEWED

KINGSWAY, OLDBURY

EXTENDED DETACHED family home with 20ft outbuilding to rear. 17ft open plan lounge to front. 20ft kitchen diner to rear with utility room & D/S bathroom. 3 bedrooms & shower/wet room on 1st floor. DRIVEWAY to front. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: TBC

QUINTON **£189,950**

SOLD STC

MILCOTE ROAD, BEARWOOD

DELIGHTFUL 2 bed mid terrace CLOSE to LIGHTWOODS PARK, and HANDY for BEARWOOD town centre, offering lounge and SEPARATE dining room, ATTRACTIVE kitchen, 2 DOUBLE bedrooms, super REFITTED bathroom, PLEASANT garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC D.

BEARWOOD **£185,000**

MUST BE VIEWED

PENNCRICKET LANE, ROWLEY REGIS

NO UPWARD CHAIN - MUCH IMPROVED home with GARAGE & PARKING to rear. Lounge & Separate dining room, kitchen & utility. LARGE rear garden with SOUTHERLY ASPECT. 3 bedrooms & bathroom on 1st floor. DRIVEWAY to front. Majority UPVC DG & GCH fitted. EPC rating: D

£145,000

WARLEY ROAD, OLDBURY

NO UPWARD CHAIN - spacious semi-detached home withPLEASANT rear garden, CONVENIENT position, offering SPACIOUS 14ft lounge, ATTRACTIVE dining kitchen, 3 bedrooms & UPSTAIRS bathroom. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating: tbc.

BEARWOOD **£135,000**

PARGETER ROAD, SMETHWICK

3 BEDROOMED intermediate terrace with NO UPWARD CHAIN, offering 2 reception rooms, PLEASANT rear garden, CONVENIENT for BEARWOOD town centre, OFFERS POTENTIAL. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating E..

BEARWOOD **£124,950**

ETHEL STREET, OLDBURY

WELL PRESENTED home with 2 DOUBLE bedrooms. Terraced home CONVENIENTLY SITUATED, offering SPACIOUS 27ft though lounge/dining area, RE-FITTED kitchen, ATTRACTIVE bathroom, PLEASANT garden. Gas central heating & double glazing fitted. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC tbc.

BEARWOOD **£99,950**

SEEDHOUSE COURT, CRADLEY

SPACIOUS ground floor flat in CUL-DE-SAC position. REFITTED kitchen with oven & hob fitted. 14ft lounge diner overlooking PRIVATE communal GARDENS. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & bathroom with WHITE SUITE. Gas central heating fitted. Communal PARKING to front. Approx 90 years left on lease. EPC rating: C

£89,950

WHITEHALL DRIVE, HALESOWEN

SPACIOUS ground floor flat CONVENIENT for HALESOWEN town centre, with NO UPWARD CHAIN, offering DELIGHTUL 16ft lounge, RE-FITTED kitchen, DOUBLE bedroom, bathroom, CARPORT at rear. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating: D.

£84,950

MILTON COURT, SMETHWICK

WELL PRESENTED, and improved RETIREMENT flat, with NO UPWARD CHAIN. CONVENIENT for BEARWOOD town centre, offering : - entrance hall, SPACIOUS 15ft lounge, kitchen, 2 GOOD SIZED bedrooms, shower room. COMMUNAL lounge/garden. EPC D.

BEARWOOD **£64,500**

Robert Oulsnam and Company

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www.oulsnam.net

Wigorn Road, Bearwood

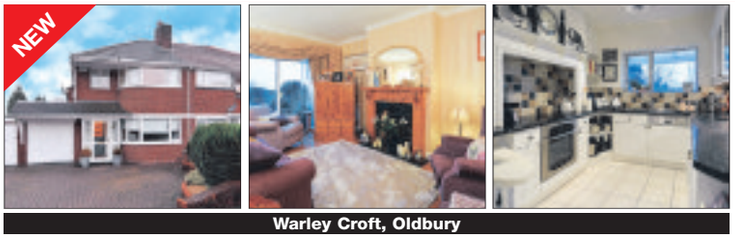
- Delightful Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern, Extended Kitchen
- Ideal Family Home
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £199,950

Bishopton Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Style Kitchen
- Period Features
- EP Rating D

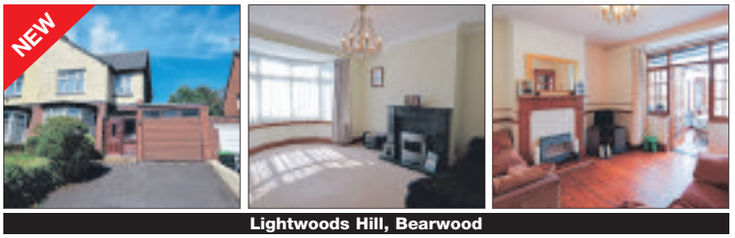
Offers in the region of £219,950



Warley Croft, Oldbury

- Beautifully Presented Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking
- Ideal Family Homr
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £289,950



Lightwoods Hill, Bearwood

- Semi Detached Family Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Recepption Rooms
- Ground Floor WC
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £305,000

Galton Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £199,950

Willow Avenue, Edgbaston

- Moast Attractive Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended Kitchen
- Two Reception Rooms
- Period Features
- EP Rating F

Offers in the region of £249,950

Pargeter Road, Bearwood

- Beautifully Presented Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Period Features
- Lovely Family Home
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £219,950

Maple Court, Wentworth Road, Harborne

- Delightful Second Floor Apartment
- Two DOuble Bedrooms
- Communal Gardens & Parking
- Garage
- Ideal First Purchase
- EP Rating F

Offers in the region of £180,000

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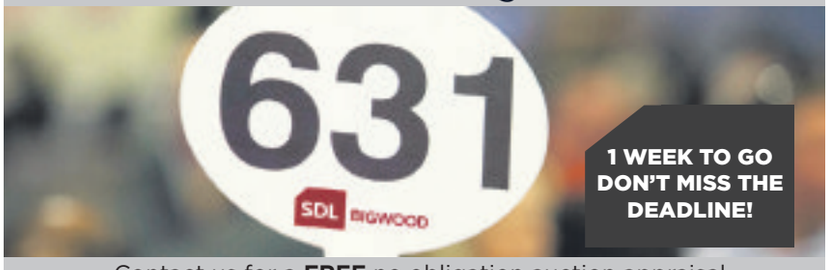

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Lovely three-bedroomed semi-detached for sale

A lovely three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Warley Hall Road, Oldbury is for sale through Braithwaites at £189,950 with no chain.

OLDBURY

£189,950

With gas central heating and double glazing it has an entrance hall, a spacious through lounge/dining area, a conservatory, kitchen, three bedrooms, a well appointed bathroom with a corner suite and separate shower cubicle, pleasant gardens and an attractive block paved driveway for off road parking.

In more detail the entrance hall has stairs off with an ornate balustrade, laminate flooring and an under-stairs storage cupboard. The through lounge/diner has a bay window, feature wooden fireplace surround with a tiled back drop and tiled hearth, picture rail, coved ceiling, laminate style flooring and sliding patio doors opening to the conservatory.

Contact Braithwaites on 0121 421 1180.

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- Gas/CH and double glazed
- Fitted kitchen with cooker

£550pcm

Tipton
Downes Court
- Two bed terraced
- Gas/CH & D/Glazed
- Both bedrooms double sized
- Fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with bath and mixer shower
- Rear garden

£495pcm

Tipton
Bean Drive
- Two bed GF apartment
- Gas/CH & D/Glazed
- Furnished but can be unfurnished
- Fully fitted kitchen with appliances
- Both bedrooms double sized

£495pcm

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Dudley Wood Road
- Three bed semi
- Lounge
- Separate dining room
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Fitted kitchen

£600pcm

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BIRMINGHAM BROOK LANE £350,000

3 2 1

A detached family residence situated opposite Moseley Gold Club and warranting FULL INTERNAL INSPECTION. Comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, utility area, shower room, three bedrooms, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, garage and parking, established rear garden. EPC Rating E

SMETHWICK WEST PARK ROAD £325,000

3 3 1

The opportunity to acquire a unique Arts & Crafts Detached family home formally Park Keeper's home situated at the entrance of West Smethwick Park and standing on 0.3 acres of land. Benefitting from central heating, double glazing, yard with storage sheds, courtyard, large established gardens. Off road parking. Side former office with own rear garden. EPC Rating F.

OLDBURY TITFORD ROAD £315,000

3 3 1

An opportunity to aquire a mixed Residential and Commercial premises comprising of detached family residence known as 'Providence Cottage' together with yard, detached stores/offices and a garage workshop. Central heating, double glazing. EPC Rating E

OLDBURY FOREST ROAD £259,950

3 1 1

A superbly presented and modernised traditional semi-detached house situated within one the areas most Premier locations. Offering excellent family accommodation including dining kitchen with island and bi-fold doors overlooking rear garden and southerly aspect. EPC Rating D.

OLDBURY BRADES ROAD £249,950

4 2 1

The opportunity to acquire a spacious detached family residence with the benefit of central heating, double glazing, double garage and parking. Established gardens to front and rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D.

WEST BROMWICH SANDWELL ROAD NORTH £209,950

2 1 1

A detached bungalow situated within half a mile of Sandwell Valley Country Park & Dartmouth Park benefitting from central heating, double glazing, private rear garden and garage and parking. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D

ROWLEY REGIS THRONE ROAD £184,950

3 1 1

Completely refurbished spacious semi-detached family with the benefit of built-in appliances to kitchen and additional utility room, substantial parking to front, gardens front and rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating E.

OLDBURY PRYOR ROAD £179,950

2 2 1

Extended semi-detached house with the benefit of a conservatory and dressing room, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, rear garden with summer house, garage and parking. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D.

OLDBURY GROSVENOR ROAD £159,950

3 1 1

Spacious semi-detached house situated in a quiet location and with the benefit of downstairs toilet, central heating and double glazing, garage and parking. Established gardens to front and rear. INTERNAL INSPECTION RECOMMENDED. EPC Rating D

OLDBURY EAST AVENUE £119,950

3 1 1

Terraced house in need of general updating offering ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity with the benefit of central heating, double glazing, garden to front, parking at rear and low maintenance garden. EPC Rating D

ROWLEY REGIS PORTWAY ROAD £94,950

2 1 1

First floor maisonette offering good sized well presented accommodation having been updated in recent years by the current owner and with the benefit of double glazing, garden at rear and garage. EPC Rating D

ROWLEY REGIS WINCHESTER CLOSE £65,000

0 0 0

A recently re-decorated and well-presented second floor flat comprising communal entrance, uPVC entrance door, hallway, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath, double glazing, electric heating, allocated and communal parking. EPC Rating E.

OLDBURY VICARAGE STREET £875 pcm

4 2 1

Large spacious Victorian semi-detached benefitting from loft conversion, central heating, double glazing and offering ideal accommodation for a family. Deposit £1200 EPC Rating D. Admin charges apply.

SMETHWICK ABBEY ROAD £750 pcm

3 2 1

The opportunity to let a well presented good sized terraced house with the benefit of central heating and private garden at rear. Deposit £1000. EPC Rating E. Admin charges apply

WEST BROMWICH LINCOLN ROAD £700 pcm

4 1 1

A semi-detached property offering opportunity for a long-term let with the benefit of central heating, double glazing, off-road parking. Deposit £950. EPC Rating D. Admin charges apply

ROWLEY REGIS THRONE ROAD £680 pcm

3 2 1

Extended end Town House offering deceptively spacious accommodation benefitting of central heating and double glazing. Deposit £900. EPC Rating E. Admin charges apply

OLDBURY LANGLEY HIGH STREET £600 pcm

3 1 1

The opportunity to rent a spacious first floor flat situated within Langley Village benefitting from central heating and double glazing, with parking available to rear of property. Deposit £900. EPC Rating D. Admin charges apply

OLDBURY BIRCH STREET £600 pcm

2 2 1

The opportunity to acquire a spacious well maintained terraced house with the potential for long-term let and benefitting from central heating and double glazing. Depost £850. EPC Rating E. Admin charges apply

WEST BROMWICH LAW STREET £575 pcm

3 2 1

A recently fully re-decorated and re-carpeted mid-terraced property offering potential long-term let and benefitting from central heating and double glazing. Deposit £800. EPC Rating D. Admin charges apply

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Palmerston Drive, Oldbury

- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
- DOUBLE GARAGE
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- EPC RATING: D

Offers In Excess Of £199,950.00

Little Lane, West Bromwich

- THREE BEDROOM MID-TERRACED HOUSE
- LARGE BEDROOMS
- TWO SPACIOUS RECEPTION ROOMS
- EPC RATING: E

Offers in Excess of £114,950.00

Newhall Hill, Birmingham City Centre

- TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
- CENTRAL BIRMINGHAM LOCATION
- MASTER BEDROOM WITH EN-SUITE
- UNDERGROUND ALLOCATED PARKING

Monthly Rental Of £895.00

Cambridge Crescent, Edgbaston

- MODERN TWO BEDROOM HOUSE
- UPSTAIRS FAMILY BATHROOM
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING & DOUBLE GLAZED

Monthly Rental Of £850.00

Essex Street, Birmingham City Centre

- ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT IN THE CITY
- PRIVATE TERRACE
- FULLY FITTED KITCHEN WITH APPLIANCES
- FAMILY BATHROOM WITH SHOWER

Monthly Rental Of £750.00

Swinford Road, Selly Oak

- THREE BEDROOM END OF TERRACED
- OFF ROAD PARKING FOR MULTIPLE VEHICLES
- THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS
- GROUND FLOOR BATHROOM

Monthly Rental Of £695.00

Throne Road, Rowley Regis

- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
- LONG TERM CONTRACT
- INTERNALLY REFURBISHED THROUGHOUT
- OFF ROAD PARKING

Monthly Rental Of £650.00

Harold Evers Way, Kidderminster

- THREE BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE
- DRIVEWAY & GARAGE
- PART-FURNISHED
- DOUBLE GLAZED & CENTRAL HEATED

Monthly Rental Of £650.00

Ferguson Drive, Tipton

- TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
- ALLOCATED PARKING SPACE
- SITUATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR
- LONG TERM CONTRACT

Monthly Rental Of £525.00

Mytton Grove, Tipton

- ONE BEDROOM TOP FLOOR APARMTENT
- MODERN DECOR THROUGHOUT
- PANORAMIC VIEWS
- ALLOCATED PARKING

Monthly Rental Of £450.00

Rough Hill Drive, Rowley Regis

- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
- GARAGE AND DRIVEWAY
- OPEN PLAN KITCHEN/DINER
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £199,950.00

Black Lake, West Bromwich

- ATTRACTIVE THREE BEDROOM MID-TERRACED
- THREE LARGE RECEPTION ROOMS
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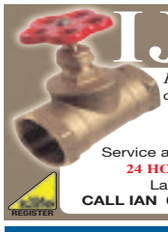

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RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

carpentry & joinery

B&S Joinery
Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £350. External, Upvc, and fire doors. All aspects of carpentry undertaken.
Family run 30 years experience
07958 552625, 0121 5322672

CARPENTRY AND JOINERY Kitchens, fitted wardrobes, doors, flooring, staircases and refurbs. 07903 234137 or 0121 4939733.

carpet fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

cleaning

Sparkle Clean
Cleaning, Painting & Handyman Services
A standard of Excellence
Office or Household cleaning
Discounted rates for regular customers
FREE Enquiries & quotes call
07818 238893 CRB checked

SURE CLEAN SOLUTIONS
Domestic & Commercial cleaners
For all general cleaning of: Factories, Offices, Houses, Shops, Retail Parks, Front of shop cleaning. Also Garden maintenance and Graffiti removal.
01922 334045

damp proof control

JUST DAMP PROOFING All areas covered. Rising damp, penetration damp. Call Mark on 07903 029768.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
6 x 5 Heavy Duty Lap Panels
£12.95 each
Fitting service available or DIY.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

gardening services

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

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gas fitting

GAS SERVICES
- Boilers • Cookers
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- Landlord Certificates
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Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

blinds

MADE-TO-MEASURE BLINDS SALE
UP TO 50% OFF*
MEASURING & FITTING INCLUDED
BLINDS | CURTAINS | SHUTTERS | CARPETS

HILLARYS
TO BOOK A **FREE** HOME APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR LOCAL ADVISOR CALL **0800 916 6563** OR VISIT **hillarys.co.uk**
*Ts & Cs apply

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

gates

ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

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YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
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0121 6010479

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels.
Mr Causer.

For great business results call **01902 319 191**
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

DAVIES INSTALLATIONS Building work, plumbing, decking, supply & fit kitchens and bathrooms. Call: 07793 747829 / 01543 300444.

HANDY MAN - Most trades, plumbing, heating, gardening & decorating. Gutter clean no ladders, free quotes. 07850 559315.

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house clearances

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

kitchen fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER Over 20 years experience. Call 07881 654757 or 01543 373233.

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plastering

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For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
30 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
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M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements.Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

MINT PLASTERING & rendering 30 yrs exp. All work guaranteed. 01922 606503 or 07519 694516.

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

plumbers

LAURIE KENNEDY domestic plumbing, no job too small, fully insured, contact me 07901 345884.

plumbing & heating

ALL PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN
No job too small or large.
Call Will for a free quote
07521 411108

A.A HEATING & PLUMBING. All gas work. Install/ Service/ Repair. Kitchen/ Bathrooms: 01922 660410

GAS CENTRAL HEATING Central heating and Boiler changes. Gas Safe, Free Quotes: 07497 826697.

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

removals

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don: 07749 941319

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

FURNITURE REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Call Keith on 07867 862227.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KT REMOVALS 12 yrs exp. Single items to full load removals. Local / distance. Call Ric: 07771 727119.

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A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy!
It definitely works for us!"
Grinsells Skip Hire.

For great business results call **01902 319 191**
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

AAA SKIP HIRE All sizes available, competitive prices. Call: 01922 711411(option 2) or 07592 940556.

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Bring your own waste cheaper than skips. General, Green, Wood waste any size vehicle. Phone for prices:
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STONES SKIP HIRE
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875
www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

upholstery

MR B'S UPHOLSTERY
RE- UPHOLSTERING OF SOFA'S, DINING FURNITURE, CARAVANS, CAR RETRIMS AND MORE.
www.mrbsupholstery.co.uk
01543 500677 07738 851601

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE

You agree the price, we buy the house.

• NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
• FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

30 yrs

0800 999 999 6

or 01384 226086 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

CASH NOW wolverhampton properties

FOR YOUR HOUSE • Legal Fees Paid • No Fees • Any Condition • Guaranteed Offer • Repossessions Stopped

We can buy your house in 2 days

0800 389 6788

01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week subject to terms

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

Need to sell your home fast?

We can help you make a fresh start

With solutions to suit ... you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

WHY NOT CALL US TODAY for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?

*Terms and Conditions apply

0121 405 0767 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates."

Black Country Homes

For great business results call 01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

For great business results call 01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

FIRST FLOOR 2 bed flat, Lichfield, 2 mins from train stations and town centre, available immediately no DSS £495pcm. 07836 780188.

STUDIO FLAT S'well hospital, fully furn p/p, 24hr hot water, shower, wifi, TV Lic, all inc. 07828 504083.

TWO BED FLAT Great Wyrley, furnished kitchen, no DSS or no smokers, £475pcm. Available end February. 07836 780188.

3-BED HOUSE Bloxwich, presentable, off road parking, unfurnished, £575pcm. 07514 272864.

J9 Accommodation

NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios *from* £90pw*
Rooms *from* £65pw*
*Includes Most Bills

CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST

Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme

01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

7 Jobs

building & construction

BENCH JOINERS & Site Fitters required for West Midlands based Shopfitting company. Direct employment or self employed basis. Excellent rates of pay. Contact 01384 413999, email: totalshopfit@gmail.com

courses

ADR COURSES WITH CRH Now back in the Black Country. From W/C 26th Sept 0121 3231777

dentistry

DENTAL NURSES required, GDC registered. * Flexible hours F/T, P/T available - 7 days per week (8am - 11pm)* Wage 12K - 20 k - negotiable, overtime & bonuses. * Immediate starts. Email CV to info@scottarmsdentalpractice.com

engineering

GENERAL LABOURER required. Experience driving forklift truck for off loading and loading of steel. Duties to include grinding and painting. Good rates of pay. Immediate start. Full time with overtime. West Bromwich area.Tel: 0121 544 6669 or email: info@leyletts.co.uk

hair & beauty

GENTS HAIRDRESSER (Barber required) Also School Leaver for Apprenticeship Quinton Tel 0121 422 4104

nursing & carers

CARE ASSISTANTS for nursing home in Cradley Heath. Days/ Nights. Full/ part time. Experience an advantage. 07930 470620.

office & secretarial

ORDER PROCESSOR To facilitate the accurate and efficient preparation of orders and support the team. Experience preferred however training given.
Please e-mail your CV/covering letter to: heather.denney@cwgchoices.com

part time - general

PT MEDICAL SECRETARY required at Lodge Road Surgery, 20 hours pw, knowledge of System1 advantage, good salary. CV / letter email to: karleen.harris@nhs.net

sales & marketing

GLASS CO-ORDINATOR To plan, organise, control procurement of glass sealed units suppliers, plus after sales service.
Please e-mail your CV/covering letter to: heather.denney@cwgchoices.com

full time - general

SLITTER / SHEARER
required for busy Stainless Steel Processing Centre.
Experience essential as training will not be given.
Immediate start.
CENTRAL BIRMINGHAM location
Apply in writing with CV to:
Mr. D. Wheeler, STAYSTRIP GROUP LTD., 11-16 Eyre Street, Birmingham B18 7AA
or call
07717 478645.
Email: **dave@staystrip.co.uk**

Career Change? New Challenge?

Inshore Support provides care and support for people with complex and challenging behaviour, our services are based in West Midlands Area.
We are recruiting now!

SUPPORT WORKERS

We welcome applicants who are looking for a career change as an extensive training package is provided – We also welcome applicants who wish to further their career within this specialist field.
Commencing salary based on 35 hours & sleep in duties
£15,912 rising to £16,640

SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS

2 years' experience & NVQ level 3 (or working towards) £18,460 based on 35 hours week & sleep in duties.
• B/H Incentives • Night Rate Enhancements
Please call our main office on 01384 421460 for an application pack or email stephaniesmith@inshoresupportltd.co.uk

SBBS Building & Scaffolding Ltd

SBBS Building & Scaffolding Ltd, Wednesbury require

SCAFFOLDERS, SCAFFOLDING TRAINEES & LABOURERS

Training will be provided.
You must be over 18.

Please Tel: Joe on 07918 742851.
Email craig@sbbs-site.co.uk

DORWINGEAR LTD
DOOR & WINDOW GEAR SERVICES

AUTOMATIC DOOR & ACCESS CONTROL ENGINEER

required, experienced and fully conversant with all types of systems.

ROLLER SHUTTER DOOR, BARRIER & GATE ENGINEER

will involve all aspect of Manufacture, Installation and Maintenance of all types of Industrial Door Systems , Barriers & Gates. Clean Driving Licence will be required in all cases Ring **0121 359 1744** or email on **dorwingear-ltd@btconnect.com** for an application form.

FULLY SKILLED VEHICLE MECHANIC
required for busy independent garage based in
WEST BROMWICH
Experienced in car & LCV.
Independent workshop experience an advantage.
MOT Tester's license preferable.
Hours Mon-Fri 8am - 5.30pm and Sat 8am - 12.30pm (Alternate).
Salary £25,000 - £30,000 + bonus
depending on skills and experience.
Training opportunities available.
CALL TIM 07974 938001

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

CHEVROLET SPARK PLUS

62 reg, MoT August 2017, 5 door, fsh, light blue, 13,700 miles, still under warranty, lady owner, cheap tax, low insurance group.

£3,300 ono.

Telephone 07984 207513.

MG MG3
2014, 17,000 Miles, White, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, fsh, alarm, central locking, one owner, cruise control, pas, Alloys, CD
£4,950 ono
07984 615774.

VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB 1.4
Petrol engine, 2005, 69,000 miles, silver, abs, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, long MoT, alloys, CD, 2 owners.
£1,550.
01922 640770.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

MUST BE SEEN

BMW 318i TOURER ESTATE

2004, facelift model, fully loaded, lady owner, alloy wheels, 116k only, too many extras to list, MoT, drives well, immaculate throughout.

Absolute bargain

£750.

07387 186211

HONDA CIVIC 1.6VTECSE

3 dr hatchback, blue, 2004. Two lady owners 143,000 miles with full Honda service history and 11 months MOT.Very reliable and great condition for year.

£975

01902 850452

HYUNDAI COUPE
2000cc, regn 2004, no tax. 10mths MoT, new clutch kit fitted , brake pads, and wipers blades. Good tyres, good runner, good clean car.
£1,7850 ono
01543 469045.

BARGAIN

PEUGEOT 206

Silver, 1.4 petrol, V Reg., eight months MoT, 80,000 miles, alloy wheels, good, clean condition, many new parts.

£325 o.n.o.

07502 027279.

MUST BE SEEN

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 1.1
3 Door. 53, Reg.
Silver. Only 61k.
With service history.
Alloys. MoT.
Stunning condition.
Only £895.
07984 141652.

BARGAIN

ROVER 414

1999, 10 months MoT, only done 56,000 miles, service history, cam belt changed, British Racing Green, tow bar, two keys.

£395

07716 376510.

BARGAIN

ROVER 414 Si

2000, two owners only,

excellent condition,

MoT to end of May.

£300.

0121 556 5887.

BARGAIN

TOYOTA AVENSIS ESTATE

2004.

MoT May 2017.

Good condition.

£900 for quick sale.

01922 325249 or 07970 659226.

commercial vehicles

CITROEN RELAY
SWB, Enterprise, 2011, 11 Reg, 1 owner from new, silver, reversing sensors, AC, light use only, MoT till May 2017, 121,000 miles from new, service history. **£4,450 ono.**
07737 430083.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

EDNA MAY DABBS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 57 The Uplands Smethwick West Midlands B67 6BY, who died on 01/11/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 31/03/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
CO-OP LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
Aztec 650 Aztec West
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD
(Ref: RKH/3934213P/Dabbs) T491441

FLORENCE VERONICA BARNFIELD (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 56 St Johns Road Oldbury West Midlands B68 9SD, who died on 22/12/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 31/03/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
SILKS SOLICITORS LTD
27 Birmingham Street Oldbury
West Midlands B69 4DY T491576

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/16/60160	Mr Carl Higgs Spring Homes	Site Of The Former Cottage Spring Alexandra Road Tipton	Proposed residential development comprising of 6 No. 2 bed apartments and 4 No. 3 bed townhouses (renewal of expired planning permission – DC/11/53456).

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE
(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

Mr Nick Bubalo, Director – Regeneration and Economy

10 Personals

personal

ATTRACTIVE lonely Female seeking broadminded males within a 20 mile radius. 01902 489 181.

LOVE ISN'T EASY TO FIND
If your heart is closed to adventure, take small steps with us holding your hand and don't give up until you find that incredible partner to change your world
Call 0121 520 3715 for more details

BRITISH BORN INDIAN MAN
Would like to meet slim, English lady, for dating companion, holidays, pubs, general activities.
Between 30-40 years old.
Box Number C20676, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV11ES.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Ford Fiesta ST best hot hatch for fourth year

Ford's Fiesta ST wins yet another crown to add to the awards shelf

By James Parker

The acclaimed Ford Fiesta ST was crowned the UK's best hot hatch for the fourth consecutive year at the 2017 What Car? Awards.

Enjoyed by over 25,000 owners, Ford Fiesta ST remains a UK favourite since its launch in 2013.

To mark the 40th anniversary last year of the Ford Fiesta – Britain's best-selling car every year since 2008 – the ST200 was added to the range, adding a further 18PS to the 182PS available from the existing 1.6-litre Fiesta ST. Also new last year was a five-door Fiesta ST to complement the original three-door bodystyle.

Steve Huntingford, What Car? editor, said: "The Ford Fiesta ST is impossible to dislike. It leaves rivals trailing on a challenging road because it dives into corners like a terrier chasing a bouncing ball and the steering is full of feel. In normal use, it doesn't disappoint.

"Like all Fiestas, the ST has a decent boot and plenty of cubbyholes and is small enough to feel wieldy around town.

"Fiesta ST is the best all-round hot hatch. It strikes the perfect balance between performance and affordability. It lets you attack B-roads without worrying about the width of the car or how powerful it is.

Ford Galaxy – best MPV (£26,000+)

"In fact, it's sharper than the BMW M140i, which costs almost £15,000 more. To add to its appeal, the ST combines all of this with the reliability, practicality and dealer coverage that has made the Fiesta top seller."

The consumer magazine and website, attracting over 1.95 million monthly users, chose the well-equipped Fiesta ST-2, priced at £18,895, as their recommended model complete with heated Recaro front sports seats and Ford Power push button start.

On receiving the award, Lisa Brankin, Ford of Britain marketing director, said: "Performance vehicles, and the thrill they bring to driving, are renowned Ford strengths. Our new ST-Line range, sitting under ST, to RS and Mustang above it, offer a performance car for everyone. Thank you What Car? for recognising Fiesta ST– the biggest seller in this exciting 2017 line-up."

It is also the fifth successive year that Ford has triumphed in the hot hatch category – prior to Fiesta ST's four-year run of success, the 250PS Focus ST took the title in 2013.

The new Ford Galaxy is also best Multi-Purpose Vehicle for its price, according to What Car?

What Car? named the Ford Galaxy Zetec with 2.0-litre TDCi 150PS diesel engine as its pick of the range.

The Ford Fiesta ST is sharper than the BMW M140i

OakGarage.co.uk
Oak Garage your local RAC Approved Dealer.

Our Low Mileage Selection

13	Vauxhall Meriva 1.4T 16V Exclusiv Auto Brown Only 5000 Miles	£7,795
63	Mazda 2 1.3 Tamura 5dr Silver Only 6000 Miles	£6,995
63	Peugeot 2008 1.6 e-HDi Active EGC Blue Only 7000 Miles	£9,695
63	Ford C-max 1.6 Zetec 5dr Silver Only 9000 Miles	£8,995
65	Peugeot 308 1.6 BlueHDi 120 Allure Grey Only 9000 Miles	£11,695
13	Volkswagen Polo 1.4 Match Edition DSG Silver Only 9000 Miles	£9,495
63	Nissan Note 1.2 DiG-S Tekna Auto Silver Only 11000 Miles	£9,795
63	Vauxhall Meriva 1.4i 16V SE Brown Only 11000 Miles	£7,995
62	Vauxhall Combo W/Chair Access 1.3 CDTi Auto Blue 11000 Miles	£5,995
64	Skoda Octavia 1.2 TSI S Blue Only 12000 Miles	£8,995
14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.4i 16V SE Silver Only 12000 Miles	£8,295
64	Vauxhall Astra 1.6i 16V Elite Brown Only 12000 Miles	£9,295
Citroen		
10	Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi 16V Exclusive Grey 56k	£5,295
59	Citroen C4 Grand Picasso 1.6HDi 16V VTR+ EGS Red 28k	£5,795
63	Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Air Exclusive+ Red 66k	£9,995
63	Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Airdream Exclusive Grey 24K	£10,495
63	Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR Blue 69k	£7,995
06	Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Exclusive 4dr Auto White 79k	£11,995
57	Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Lignage 4dr Auto Black 104k	£6,995
57	Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Lignage 4dr Auto Silver 62k	£7,995
58	Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Lignage 4dr Auto Silver 63K	£6,495
13	Citroen DS3 1.6 e-HDi 115 Airdream DSport Plus 3dr Red 21K	£8,995
Ford		
63	Ford Fiesta 1.25 82 Zetec Red 26k	£6,995
62	Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5dr [82] Blue 15k	£6,995
63	Ford Fiesta 1.5 TDCi Zetec Black 28k	£7,795
63	Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi 115 Titanium Grey 40K	£8,795
Honda		
60	Honda Accord 2.0 i-VTEC EX 4dr Auto Silver 36K	£9,995
06	Honda Civic 1.8 i-VTEC SE Blue 87k	£3,495
11	Honda Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC EX 5dr CVT Brown 21k	£7,795
Kia		
60	Kia Rio 1.5 CRDi 2 5dr Silver 105K	£2,795
04	Kia Sorento 2.5 CRDi XS 5dr Auto Silver	£2,795
13	Kia Sportage 1.7 CRDi ISG 1 Silver 40k	£10,995
14	Kia Venga 1.6 2 5dr Auto Blue 35k	£7,495
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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, January 19, 2017

Nissan is hoping to attract younger buyers with its new customisation options

New life breathed into latest Micra

By James Parker

Let's face it, the last Nissan Micra wasn't exactly a big hit in the UK market.

It was a bit too quirky compared with previous generations and what had been the first-car staple of so many young drivers became the reserve of the older generation.

Nissan has breathed a new lease of life into the latest Micra, though, bringing it into line with the rest of its product range and offering segment firsts on the safety and technology fronts. It's been redesigned from the ground up to offer far better driving performance, plus the combination of standard safety options, improved driving aids and tech developments.

It is also available with must-have extras such as Apple CarPlay integration and high-quality Bose headrest speakerss.

When it comes to looks, the fifth-generation Micra has certainly improved and is likely to win favour with those looking for a stylish but practical alternative to the traditional cars on the market. It's been given that instantly recognisable Nissan chrome 'V' around the badge and an overall much sleeker look.

Micra has improved on the looks-front

It's clear that the target market for Micra is younger drivers and Nissan is hoping to capture the attention of this audience with its new customisation options. There are three levels for this, covering the exterior and interior, meaning buyers have 125 options to choose from and ensure their car stands out.

Focus on interior quality has been drastically improved. Here the Micra really sets itself apart from rivals, with soft flowing lines across the dash, built with soft-touch materials.

The new Micra has a longer wheelbase than ever, and that means more legroom for all occupants. This is another way that Nissan has challenged rivals, as it's moving away from a cramped supermini to a small hatchback. With five doors and a reasonable boot it would be appealing for any family with young children.

The doors open nice and wide too which makes this a great option for getting in and out of, especially if you're trying to get a child in the back. However, the door openings themselves aren't that big and you'll have to bend over quite considerably.

The Micra is kitted out with lane departure assistance, emergency braking, traffic sign recognition and blind spot warning, meaning you get a really comprehensive range of driving assistance for such a small car. This is standard on the top-spec Tekna but you'll have to pay extra for it if you opt for a lower grade.

The Nissan Micra is available with two engine options at launch – a 0.9-litre turbocharged petrol and a 1.5-litre diesel – both producing 89bhp. From March, when the car goes on sale, there will be a 1.0-litre naturally aspirated engine, producing 74bhp, coming to the UK but details are limited. Currently, it's only available with a five-speed manual gearbox.

According to Nissan, the 0.9-litre petrol engine will achieve 64.2mpg and produce 99g/km of CO_2 with stop-start fitted. Its diesel counterpart will do 88mpg while producing 85g/km of CO_2. It will achieve 0 – 60mph in 11.9 seconds with the petrol engine, continuing to 109mph, while the diesel will go marginally faster to 60mph in 11.7 seconds, reaching 111mph. The Nissan Micra is a pretty pokey little car to drive in both petrol and diesel guises, although you'll get marginally more out of the little turbo petrol.

The new Nissan Micra is finally a great alternative to the staples of the small hatchback market. It's got the looks, the drive and the economy to become a serious rival worth considering. Take into account the infotainment options available and it makes an extremely strong argument for itself to those not particularly concerned about an inspiring driving experience.

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Graham Taylor on becoming Wolves boss with chairman onathan Hayward

Graham Taylor is awarded the OBE in 2002

Taylor following his appointment as England manager

Taylor signs Paul McGrath and Kent Nielsen at Villa

Intelligent, visionary and breath of fresh air

SPORTING MEMORIES

Russell Youll pays tribute

IT WAS a hot day in early May, 1990, and Villa fans were bouncing. Literally bouncing.

The final game of the season had ended in a thrilling 3-3 draw at Everton and Villa had finished second in the old First Division behind Liverpool.

The away end at Goodison Park was shaking. It was the first time as a teenage fan I had felt a stand move beneath my feet. I was 18 and giddy with heat, excitement and a few pints at a pub stop just off the M6.

Thousands of Villa fans had made the journey to Merseyside and it was the worst kept secret in football that this was Graham Taylor's goodbye to the claret and blue faithful.

We all knew he would be taking over from Bobby Robson after the World Cup in Italy.

This is the man who had built Watford and taken them all the way from the Fourth Division to the First in five years and capped it with an an FA Cup final at Wembley.

Plunged

Villa, meanwhile, had gone the other way. League champions in 1981, European champions in 1982, they had plunged into the Second Division within five years of that glorious night in Rotterdam.

In the darkest of times of his chairmanship, Doug Ellis made his shrewdest ever move. He recruited Taylor. The new manager was then just 42 and wasted no time in describing the club as 'a shambles' as he walked through the doors of Villa Park.

He was the breath of fresh air all Villa fans had craved. His first season saw Villa promoted back at the first attempt. He brought in David Platt and Alan McInally, while midfielder Andy Gray came in from Crystal Palace as his more famous namesake went out of the door to neighbours Albion.

Taylor later recounted how that farewell moved him to tears. It remains still my greatest memory as a football fan.

Villa finished in second, going up on goal difference ahead of Middlesbrough. The following season, Villa escaped relegation by a single point. But what a season followed.

Taylor signed Paul McGrath from Manchester United and Villa cut a swathe through the First Division, with a classy edge provided by a reborn Gordon Cowans and a rampant Platt. In the end, Villa ended the season nine points behind champions Liverpool but it was a closer race than that.

But when we boarded that bus to Goodison on May 5, 1990, we knew we were saying goodbye to Taylor as Villa boss, although we didn't know then he would return one day for a second spell. When the final whistle blew the players thanked the fans, Taylor applauded the supporters and left the pitch.

But when the Goodison gates opened but not a single Villa fan left. As 'Graham Taylor's claret and blue army' echoed around a stadium devoid of Everton fans, it was clear the Villans would not leave until Taylor returned one final time.

It must have been some 20 minutes after the final whistle when he emerged. I will never forget his hands clasped together in triumph and thanks. Taylor recounted in an interview some years later how that farewell moved him to tears. It remains still my greatest memory as a football fan. For that Graham, I thank you.

Taylor's time at Wolves was fairly brief – he lasted little more than 18 months before he was hounded out by angry supporters and an impatient board. But it was certainly memorable.

It was a huge coup for Wolves to land Taylor in March 1994. Having been vilified and castigated for his role as England boss, Taylor saw it as a chance to resurrect his career – as well as rejuvenate a sleeping giant, backed by Sir Jack Hayward's millions.

Wolves just fell short of the play-offs and then, armed with a warchest of £4.5m, Taylor brought in Tony Daley, Steve Froggatt, Neil Emblen, Don Goodman and John De Wolf.

Four of those five players suffered serious injuries in 1994/95 but Taylor oversaw a truly thrilling campaign. Wolves scored 77 goals, the highest in the league and 10 more than champions Middlesbrough, but conceded 61 (rock-bottom Notts County let in 66).

Injuries, and three 3-3 draws in six games, meant Wolves had to settle for the play-offs again – and Bolton's John McGinlay crushed their dreams.

The next season started badly and Taylor was forced to resign amid supporter protests.

Despite his regrets at not being able to complete the job, he would always speak fondly of Wolves. And those fans (and Jonathan Hayward) who forced him out would concede he departed too soon, especially when watching Taylor take Watford to the top flight in 1999.

Taylor's legacy was laying the foundations for the club's youth scheme and a training ground of their own. He demanded they move to Compton. He also later convinced his Watford protégé Kenny Jackett to take the Wolves job. Another wise decision from a deeply intelligent football visionary.

Taylor, flanked by new signings John de Wolf and Don Goodman at Molineux in 1994

Graham Taylor arrives at Villa Park in 1987. He transformed the club he described as a 'shambles' on arrival

Farewell to a gentleman: Graham Taylor tributes
Page 47

Brummies make Hay sixth signing

BIRMINGHAM have secured the services of Chris Hay for the 2017 National League season.

The 28-year-old joins Tom Bacon, Danyon Hume, Darryl Ritchings, Jack Parkinson-Blackburn and Layne Cuppit as the sixth signing for the Surestop Brummies.

The former motocross rider made a number of appearances for both Stoke and Buxton in the second half of the 2016 campaign and is looking forward to his full first season in the sport.

Said Hay: "I was delighted to get the phone call from Birmingham and this is a really big thing for me.

"I eased myself into the sport last year but moving to such a big club like Birmingham will hopefully help me progress to the level I want to be at.

"I used to do motocross but then I went to one of the Wayne Carter Training Schools last winter and I really enjoyed having a go on a speedway bike.

"I picked it up pretty quickly and I raced in a few of the amateur meetings at Scunthorpe.

"Although I'm a late starter to speedway, I still want to have some success in the sport and I think Birmingham is the perfect kind of place for me to show what I can do."

Brummies team manager Graham Drury said: "I know the signing of Chris is one people probably won't have seen coming, but I have been encouraged by his approach to his racing behind the scenes. He goes about his preparations the right way and he's keen to become a solid points scorer.

"It's not going to happen overnight for the lad but with a bit of encouragement and confidence behind him, he could well prove to be a good signing.

"I feel he can be a good addition to the side both on and off the track."

'Yozza' falls at the semis again as top seed takes the title

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes bowed out of the BDO World Championship at the semi-final stage for the second year running, losing to best pal and eventual champion Glen Durrant.

Hughes lost 6-1 at Lakeside on Saturday.

In the semi-final, the Black Country thrower was 4-0 down before he registered his first set and only forced a deciding leg on one occasion.

The 30-year-old has now failed to beat Durrant in his last nine attempts at competitive darts, one of only three victories coming at the 2014 Antwerp Open.

For the first time in his fourth tie, Hughes failed to win the throw in the practice room. He instead broke Durrant in the very first leg, punishing his miss at tops for 116 with double five for 80. However, Durrant broke straight back and clinched the opener in a decider before going on to rattle off the first four sets.

On Sunday, number one seed Durrant secured his first BDO World Championship title with a 7-3 victory over Dutchman Danny Noppert.

Barrow sets Steelers' wheels in motion

Sandwell Steelers American football squad

American football

THE Sandwell Steelers will have an 'in house' appointment leading their charge for success this season.

Former player Ross Barrow has been appointed head coach following the departure of Jay Alexander. Barrow was last year's offensive line and assistant head coach. He will be assisted by offensive co-ordinator David Butler and defensive co-ordinator Stuart Andrew.

Steelers will have a new man filling the quarterback role following the departure of Jonny Glover, who has moved abroad. Old-boy Callum Davidson has returned to fill the void.

In 2015 Steelers had a perfect record on their way to Midlands Football Conference 2 glory. Last campaign they tasted just one regular season defeat on their way to the divisional title and the play-offs before their charge was ended by eventual winners Bury Saints.

"I'm excited to get under way," said Barrow, who is overseeing a number of rookie taster sessions at the RSA Academy, Bilston Road, Dudley.

For more information, go to facebook.com/SandwellSteelersAmericanFootballClub/ or email chairman@sandwellsteelers.com

HERO HARRY KANES BAGGIES

Tottenham 4 Albion 1

HAT-TRICK hero Harry Kane described this as Tottenham's best performance of the season.

When the opposition play as well as that, it can be hard to draw conclusions.

Spurs have now won seven in a row, scoring 21 goals on the way.

This defeat, however heavy it was, should not burst the Albion bubble. The season is still going well. Albion remain eighth in the league. But it does raise plenty of concerns.

The defence looked woefully shaky with no Jonny Evans there to set the tone.

Gareth McAuley, usually so reliant, is now making mistakes with worrying frequency and it's painfully obvious Jonas Olsson can no longer cut it at this level.

Nacer Chadli is still struggling to rediscover his blistering early-season form and it's getting harder to argue Albion's record signing deserves a place in the starting line-up.

Bench

Which speaks volumes, because the squad is so wafer thin it could be in a Monty Python sketch.

Pulis named three teenagers on the bench and even gave Sam Field a run-out for the last couple of minutes.

The Baggies have let Craig Gardner and Callum McManaman leave on loan but they are yet to sign anyone.

Albion's squad was one of the smallest before the window, and it's only grown smaller.

On Saturday, not only was Evans injured but Allan Nyom couldn't play.

But the early goal was crucial. Kane's opener settled the home side's nerves and when Christian Eriksen's shot hit McAuley and wrong-footed Foster, it was game over.

The Baggies may have stemmed the tide briefly after half-time, but when Kane wrapped it up late on, bagging a hat-trick in the same week he became a father, it was nothing less than Spurs deserved. But if any Baggies fans are searching desperately for positives, the time they were beaten 4-0 they then went on a four-match unbeaten run, picking up 10 points from 12.

Hal Robson-Kanu keeps Tottenham's Ben Davies at arm's length at White Hart Lane

Evans out to add to magnificent seven

WEDNESBURY'S Sam Evans will resume his professional boxing career with his first fight of 2017 on familiar turf next month.

Evans has racked up a magnificent seven of paid victories without reply so far and continues to have boxing legend Ricky Hatton in his corner.

The 20-year-old welterweight will climb back through the ropes at the Fenton Manor Sports Complex in Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday February 18.

It's the same venue where he scored a final round TKO in his first outing over six last October, with Andrej Capur halted inside-the-distance. It's one of two stoppages on his pro record.

Evans made it seven from seven at Birmingham's Holiday Inn Queensway on December 1, again in a six-rounder outpointing Capur's Lithuanian countryman Arvydas Trizno.

'Taffy' is growing in potential with former two-weight world champion Hatton.

Tickets are on sale, priced at £30 and £60 ringside. Call 07585 906 792.

Leaders of the pack stay undefeated

Aldridge 2nds 0 Wednesbury 63

WITH no game for Wednesbury's first team, their second team travelled to Aldridge for a Merit Table game.

Wednesbury are top of the table having not lost a league game this season and were keen to extend that winning streak.

Their first try came after only five minutes, Martin Beech ran onto a pass and ran through the home side's defence to go over. Danny Heinz got the second, crashing through after a superb move.

The home side tried to break the pressure but Wednesbury were too strong for them. It was then Jack Harris's turn to add to the tally, scoring his first try of the game, followed by another superb move allowing Beech to notch his second.

Aaron Harris ran in Wednesbury's fifth try. The only thing letting Wednesbury down was their kicking as none of the first five tries were converted.

But this changed when Josh Harris took over the kicking duty. With just a couple of minutes of the half remaining Neil Sherwood finished off another superb move to go over for the try and the extras were added

From the kick off Wednesbury won the ball and ran it straight back at the home side allowing Jack Harris to go over for the try, Josh putting over the conversion.

In the second half, the visitors were soon on the score sheet as Jamie Becket touched down. Ben Baker scored the best try of the game, which was converted, before Mike Howard ran in the 10th try, with the conversion added.

Wednesbury first XV return to league action this weekend, travelling to face local rivals Bloxwich. The 2nds face Bloxwich 2nds at Wednesbury. Both kick off at 2.15pm

Albion and Blues take look at Scarr

DAN SCARR celebrated his FA Cup third-round goal for Stourbridge by going on trial with both Albion and Birmingham.

The 22-year-old central defender netted his side's equaliser as they went down 2-1 at League Two Wycombe Wanderers.

Glassboys boss Gary Hackett said: "Dan is under contract with us at the present time, but I'd like to think we wouldn't stand in the way of any player progressing

"Dan's been playing really well lately and it's no surprise one or two people are taking notice."

★★★

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